



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

COUNTERING REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY



A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel



COUNTERING REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL



NIGEL WOODLEY
NEW ZEALAND CHAIRMAN

Although Replacement Theology is not usually a set course you can take at any Bible college, its sentiment and doctrine is interwoven throughout the fabric of today's theology in much of the universal Church. Even churches and ministers who would not identify themselves with replacement theology doctrine inadvertently fall into the trap of seeing the Church in scripture when they should actually be seeing Israel.

"Don't get me wrong," a pastor and teacher, well known in the Pacific region, once said on television, "I pray for the peace of Jerusalem every day. But in the New Testament the Church is the new Israel." It shocked me that such an influential church leader could lead his audience astray with such an interpretation of Scripture. The late Derek Prince, one of the most well-received Bible teachers across denominational lines, used to say plainly about this error: "In the Bible Israel is Israel and the Church is the Church."

There are some basic problems with Replacement Theology. Here is one:

If Israel is no longer a covenant partner with the God of the Bible, then why, after two millennia, have the Jewish people managed to re-establish themselves in their ancient land, speaking again their ancient language which had passed out of common usage? How could they come to national independence and statehood in 1948, just three years after the worst-ever atrocity, the Holocaust, was perpetrated against them? How could this happen if the God of Israel was not involved?

Abraham's entry into the Promised Land, and then Israel's subsequent entry and re-entry into Eretz (the land of) Israel (after coming out of Egypt, and then Babylon) had to be done with God's help and manifest blessing. Is it really logical to argue that, with more Jews to absorb

into the land than ever before, and more enemies to contend with, Israel is this time doing it on its own? Surely, only unbelievers would accept such a notion. If God is finished with Israel, then why is Israel not finished with itself?

We know from the Bible that whatever God is finished with is finished! Of course, if someone cannot even see Israel in the word Israel then they may not get this point either.

Jeremiah made it plain: Israel will never cease to be a nation before God, and you can count on the sun, moon and stars for that one (Jeremiah 31:35-36). This comes at the end of a wonderful prophecy about the restoration of the people of Israel to their land in the last days (Jeremiah 30:1-31:38). It is absolutely clear that the Israel in the prophecy is the Israel which once lived in the land of Israel. It is not prophesying about the future Church. This prophecy alone blows Replacement Theology out of the water.



The New Testament backs up these sentiments. The last recorded question Jesus' disciples asked Him before He ascended into glory was, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1: 6). What that kingdom might look like doesn't matter so much as to whom the kingdom was going to be restored — to Israel. This is not the Church. Actually, many scholars say, and I agree, that the Church had not been born yet but was about to be with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. But, whether still unborn or right at its infancy, the Church had no need to be restored as the disciples had asked concerning Israel. Acts 1:6 cannot be referring to the Church.

The disciples had travelled with, and learned from, Jesus for three years. It was in their ideology and doctrine, taught to them by Him, that there would come a restoration of the kingdom to Israel. It was not a question of "will" or "if", but "when". Acts 1:6 predicted a restoration of Israel and the restorer would be Christ himself: "you".

This is also seen in Isaiah, in a prophecy predicting the purpose of Messiah: "And now the LORD says — he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength — It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5-6).

Messiah's mission is twofold: first to restore Jacob by bringing Israel back, and second to be a light for the Gentiles. Today He is doing both. The God of Israel is behind the modern restoration of the Jews to their land. At some time in the future, in the predetermined counsel of God, Israel will go from being a nation state to being a kingdom; and David their king will again reign from Jerusalem. In the meantime, Israel is returning home in anticipation of her coming King.



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.

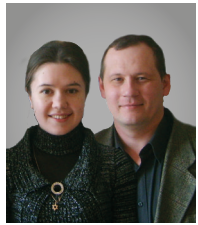
Israel's parliament, the Knesset, in session.



RACE AGAINST TIME

MOLDOVA

Two families had a 9:00 am appointment at the Israeli Consul's office in Kiev, Ukraine. The problem was that they were travelling from Moldova!



PAVEL & LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS

It was a very difficult journey that lay ahead of us and we were desperate to see the two families, Elena and Vadim with their children, and husband and wife Pavel and Galina, get to the consulate on time. Sometimes the Consul comes to Moldova to process documents, but on this occasion he couldn't, hence us having to go to Kiev—a journey of seven hours, across borders that can be unpredictable and hold you up for a long time for no apparent reason. There are night coaches, but again, there is no guarantee they will get you to your destination on time. There was only one thing to do: we would have to drive ourselves.

We knew God wanted these families in Israel, so we made the necessary arrangements to leave at 2 a.m. We drove a long way, chatting, sharing and

napping (except the driver!). Thankfully we arrived on time, joyful if not a little tired, at the Consul's office. Wonderfully, the visas were granted without any hitches and we were ready to leave at 2 p.m. for our journey back to Moldova.

During the return journey, Elena shared that she had only found out about her Jewish heritage relatively recently. By accident, her stepbrother had mentioned to her that her father, whom she had lost contact with, had remarried and was living in Israel. He hadn't known that Elena was ignorant of the fact that she had a Jewish father!

Elena lost no time in exploring the implications of her Jewish background and it wasn't long before she and Vadim had applied for aliyah with their children! When Elena contacted her father he was happy to help her. His sister, also in Israel, found the young family a flat, and even acted as guarantor. Not only did Elena get a new country but a new family too!



The long journey resulted in the best possible outcome for the families!



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY!

UKRAINE

Boris had never heard about the possibility of making aliyah before and was not going to let this opportunity pass by!

"My wife and I worked so hard to support our family, but no matter what we did we could not make enough. One day I said, 'I'm tired of this,' " Boris told us, when he asked us for help. It was something we've heard frequently. He had been a car mechanic for 22 years but one wage was not enough to survive on. His wife, Natalie, had two university degrees in metallurgy and economics but had been driven out of the company where she worked by anti-Semitic colleagues.

She went to work at the open-air market, selling parsley and dill, but it brought in next to nothing. Later, she got a job packing postcards, but again the wage was very poor. *"We did not see a future for our family in Ukraine. It was too much of a struggle,"* said Boris.

Boris's Jewish father died long ago and had said nothing about going to Israel. His mother

had never mentioned it either. *"If I'd known before, we would have applied long ago,"* he said. *"My two cousins in Israel told us to apply and I did so without hesitation, but we needed help."*

Boris found himself up against a brick wall with the paperwork. The Ukrainian registry office were holding things up and Boris didn't know why. They hadn't returned the forms that were needed, so we decided to go with Boris to find out what the problem was. Thankfully, after speaking to the official, the needed documents were supplied in a couple of hours!

Boris submitted all the paperwork to the Israeli Consul and it wasn't long before the visas arrived. They even suggested Boris apply for a repatriation programme for car mechanics. *"I could not even dream of anything like that. It is so wonderful,"* Boris exclaimed, thanking us for all the help we had given him and his family.



TATIANA
UKRAINE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Going to Israel with his family was beyond anything Boris could dream of!

ENCOURAGEMENT SO IMPORTANT

RUSSIA



ELYA VASYUKOVA
MOSCOW LEADER

Bureaucratic problems beset Gloria's attempt to bring her documents together, but persistence and encouragement paid off. This is her story:

"My grandfather was Jewish but the question of going and living in Israel had never occurred to me. We prayed for Israel regularly as we believed we should and then one day some friends took us there on a holiday. It was a dream come true and, while there, my husband and I both realised we wanted to make aliyah. The only problem was that I had very few documents proving my Jewish heritage.

In January 2017 we sent my mother's birth certificate and grandfather's death certificate to the Israeli Consul. However, he immediately told us we had insufficient documents for our application. It took us another six months to procure some more papers and certificates, but again we were told our proof was inadequate as none of the documents were original. The Consul said we needed at least one original from my late grandfather. We tried various

archives, and even the Red Cross, but all in vain. In some places they could not find anything and, in others, for some reason, the officials were unwilling to release information to either me or my mother.

We did not give up, however, and a year later submitted everything we had again. This time there was a new Consul who seemed more sympathetic, but once more told us that without more documents he wasn't able to grant us Israeli visas. We explained the difficulties we'd had and he suggested that we send him a photograph of my grandfather's birth record from the archive. This gave us hope, as we knew we could get that. We sent it to him and shortly afterwards received permission for aliyah. We were overjoyed!

During all the months of waiting and disappointment it proved so important to have the Ebenezer team encouraging us. These dear people showed us their care and love, and it strengthened our faith to keep going. We are deeply grateful."



Never give up hope: Gloria and her family on their way to Israel.

YOUNG ADULTS VISIT MOLDOVA

MOLDOVA

Five young international participants joined the Chisinau team for a week of visiting Jewish families in Moldova. It was inspiring to learn about this vital work from the dedicated Ebenezer workers.

Visiting and encouraging potential olim and delivering medication to Holocaust survivors, were included in a full programme of activities. The Holocaust survivors greeted the Ebenezer staff members as friends and welcomed us with open arms. It was admirable and a relief to see that there is no bitterness or anger against people from Germany, or other parts of Europe, despite the horrors of the past.

On an afternoon visiting Jewish historical sites, we interceded for aliyah from Moldova and our respective nations. At the Chisinau pogrom memorial we prayed that the Church would not be guilty of blood on her

hands again, but would instead align with God's heart. It was a week of experiencing God's kingdom across borders; friendship; strengthening faith; broadening horizons; and the challenge to seek God's kingdom for our own Jewish communities.



BATYA
GERMAN TEAM

Blessing a
Holocaust survivor.

BALTICS PRAYER JOURNEY

BALTIC STATES

We began a prayer journey of Baltic states in Estonia, going on to Lithuania and Latvia. Our group had representatives from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Russia and Israel.

In each country, we visited historical Jewish sites, monuments and museums. We prayed at every border we crossed and corporately prayed and made proclamation at the borders of Russia/Estonia, Belarus/Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningrad)/Lithuania. Confessing the sins of our nations was an important part of this.

We met members of Jewish communities in many places, showing our love to them and sharing about the work of aliyah. The stories, pictures and other things they shared with us about the suffering of Jewish people in World War II left each of us touched and quiet, praying

that something like that would never happen again. Praise God for His mercy and His call for us to see, understand, pray and help the Jewish people!



HANS LAHI, ALGAUDE
SIVILEVICIENE AND
OUTI LYYTIKAINEN

Prayer team at
the Latvian border.

'THANK YOU FOR NOT FORGETTING!'

USA



SHIRLEY LAWRENSON
NYC ALIYAH DIRECTOR



ADRIANNE PROSSER
EAST COAST
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

During Passover in Brooklyn, New York, we had the privilege to enter the homes of many dear Jewish friends—all Holocaust survivors. We presented each of them with a beautiful Pesach Mitzvah basket. Their warm and gracious welcome, and the embrace of their love, were very humbling experiences for each of us.

What an honour it was to hear their stories of courage, strength and dignity! We came to recognise them not as victims but as heroes — special people who survived horrific experiences, picked themselves up, started over and created new lives from the ashes of the Holocaust.

Bringing love and comfort to these dear friends gives them courage and a sense of purpose. Many have never had the opportunity to share their amazing testimonies. They were all thankful that we remembered them, and some shared that for 30 years they had never experienced the kindness we showed them. Others asked, "How is it that I made the list to receive such kindness?"

The feeling of humility was overwhelming during our visit to one couple in particular. Lilian started to share her story but her husband, Semin, tried signalling her not to continue. But then he relaxed, glanced over to us, saw how much attention and care we were giving his wife. He found comfort in that and began to tell his own story. This was such a revelation of Scripture: "'Comfort, comfort my people,' says your God" (Isaiah 40:1).

As we listened to these dear people, many of them took our hands and gave them a loving squeeze, followed up with a kiss on the cheek, as they repeated over and over, "Thank you for not forgetting!" It was as if many of them had been waiting for us to visit, listen, care, love and comfort them. A lot of them have been on long and very challenging journeys at times. Many were 96, 97 and 98 years old. Each has found the courage and strength to move on: they live rich lives, filled with children, grandchildren and friends. It was a privilege to bless and listen to this very special group of Jewish friends.



Adrienne and
Shirley with Boris.

BEFORE THE STORM

ARGENTINA

"They will follow the Lord; He will roar like a lion. When He roars, his children will come trembling from the west." Hosea 11:10

We give thanks to the Lord for His care and faithfulness while visiting Jewish communities in Buenos Aires and La Pampa provinces in the south of Argentina, which involved driving some 2,000 km. We were a team of four: Raúl and Analía Roullie (Aliyah Coordinators, Argentina), Daniela Castillo (Mexico) and Ian Atkin, a volunteer from Scotland. We travelled with hearts willing to be led by the Lord to do His work, show His love and let those we visited know that He has not forgotten them and still has plans for their good.

Bringing humanitarian aid to needy families was a key part of the trip. They were amazed that Christians had travelled long distances to meet their need, as well as to tell them about the land of their ancestors that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is calling them back to; and that He wants them to leave, before the gathering

storm of persecution explodes among them. One of the signs of this storm was a newspaper article headed 'Swastikas in La Pampa', which tells of a young woman called Valentina who was subjected to racism and anti-Semitic comments.

Please pray for Valentina, her family and Jewish communities in Argentina, that the Lord will protect them and bring them safely home to Israel. During our trip we stopped on roads and at ports to pray for their aliyah.

There was an important meeting in Santa Rosa, capital of La Pampa province, with a national representative of the Jewish people in this land. Not only did she give us insights into the growing anti-Semitism, but she also provided help in contacting Jewish communities in southern Argentina, which will be most valuable for future visits that we plan to make to this region.

Pray with us that the Lord will move in the hearts of Jewish people and disturb them to make aliyah while it is possible to leave Argentina.

RAÚL, ANALÍA,
DANIELA & IAN



Top: Daniela, husband and wife Raúl & Analía with a car full of aid to bless the Jewish community.

Left: Raúl, Analía and Ian with a Jewish lady who received an aid pack.

TO STAY OR GO?

FRANCE



XAVIER
DARRIEUTORT
FRANCE NATIONAL
DIRECTOR

These are increasingly difficult days for Jews living in France. Knowledgeable observers regularly tell us of a climate ripe for revolutionary acts. The government declares willingness to fight anti-Semitism while allowing demonstrations by organisations such as the French Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) as well as backing regimes such as Iran.

President Macron's favouring of a Palestinian state encourages anti-Semitism and there was a 75 per cent increase of such acts in 2018 compared with 2017. A recent survey says 60% of French Jews are living in fear of being attacked.

Yet figures show that aliyah from France in 2018 was down to 2,600, compared with 3,400 the previous year. This is mainly because Jewish people in France

are very rooted to their host country and difficulties with integration in Israel, along with rumours of war, do not promote aliyah. Yet many know they will not be able to stay in France if the situation continues to deteriorate. One little spark would be enough to trigger a massive aliyah.



Top: French police fire tear gas at demonstrators.

GERMANY



WINFRIED RUDLOFF
GERMANY NATIONAL
COORDINATOR

Last year 185 olim went home to Israel from Germany. That's quite a small number, but we see a change coming.

The Naale Academy provides the possibility for 14-16 year-olds to go to Israel to complete their education there. Many are grabbing the opportunity.

Ebenezer Germany is involved in this programme by hosting groups of Jewish teenagers with their parents in our office, because assessment of potential students takes place in Berlin. We've met families at the airport, paid for accommodation in Berlin and helped them during their admission process. So far we've helped some 120 teenagers from Germany, and elsewhere in Europe, who have passed their tests and gone to Israel.

A family from Bulgaria. Both teenagers were accepted into the Naale programme and are currently studying in Israel. We provided a place for them to stay in Berlin during their Naale application exams.

The Naale programme is worldwide, with 25,000 students having graduated through its academies in Israel, which have some 2,000 currently studying there. It is reckoned that 90 per cent of graduates stay in Israel—and so often this causes their families to make aliyah as well.



OPENING THE HIGHWAYS

Go through, go through the gates; prepare a way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples." Isaiah 62:10

In 2015 Ebenezer ran a young adults prayer tour travelling by train from Berlin to Auschwitz along the same routes that 80 years ago the Nazis used to send six million Jews to concentration camps and therefore to their deaths. We prayed for highways to be opened up for the Jewish people — to life in its fullest and to life in Israel.

Today, Ebenezer shares an office with the Jewish Agency in Berlin — God answers prayer! He is true to His word and promises for His beloved people — what an incredible honour to step out in prayer by faith and watch Him move!

This May a group of intercessors travelled from Haarlem (Netherlands) via Berlin (Germany) to Warsaw, Krakow and Auschwitz (Poland). We were a very lively group of 21 people of all ages, literally coming from the ends of the earth to journey together as one. Our aim was to pray and intercede for the Jewish people

and body of Messiah in Europe and around the world; to learn how to prepare and take a stand in the times ahead; and to declare God's Word at strategic places that caused suffering and death to His beloved people.

We prayed in Corrie ten Boom's house, where prayer meetings for the re-establishment of Israel occurred for 100 years, and learned about the family's courage to stand with the Jewish people unto death. We prayerfully visited places in Berlin, where the Nazis planned such evil, walked the Warsaw ghetto, took the Lord's Supper and declared His victory at Auschwitz. The Jewish people live! The God of Israel lives!

We are very grateful for what the Lord has done during this tour. All glory to God!

Please pray:

- ✓ For the Jews in Europe to walk the aliyah highways to life.
- ✓ For God to give them understanding of the times today.
- ✓ For the Church in Europe to be prepared and willing to stand with the Jewish people in the face of escalating anti-Semitism.

PRAYER



JUDITH FRANK
BERLIN OFFICE

Top: The Intercessors standing in front of the Reichstag building, Berlin.

A NEW DOOR OPENING?

TIME TO FAVOUR

ZION

EBENEZER EUROPEAN CONF. 2019

24-27 OCTOBER — TORREMOLINOS, MALAGA, SPAIN

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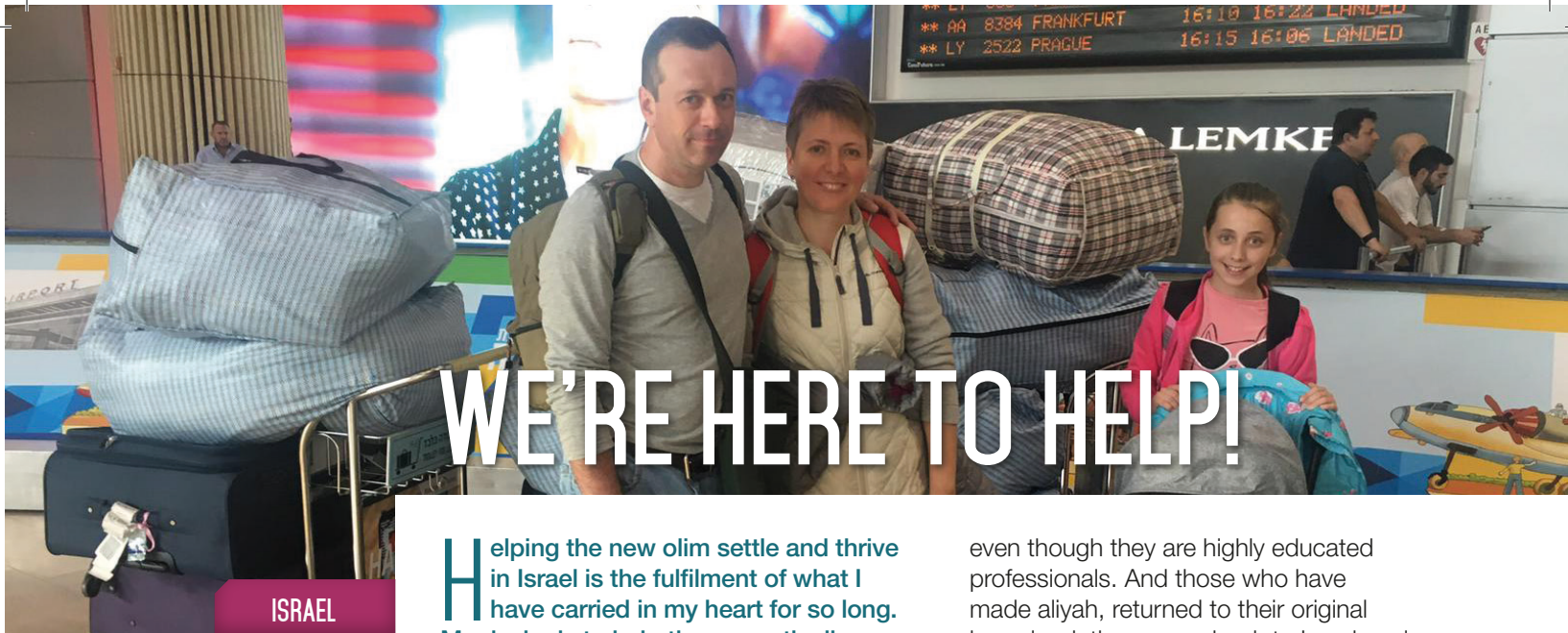
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EBENEZER
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ISRAEL



SHLOMIT FARBEROV
ISRAEL TEAM

Helping the new olim settle and thrive in Israel is the fulfilment of what I have carried in my heart for so long. My desire is to help them practically and to encourage them not to give up, believing that it is possible to start from the very beginning. From experience, I know that life here is challenging. I received a lot of support and help from the people around me when I came to Israel. *'Kol Israel Haverim'* is the phrase used here to express 'One nation together': we help each other...

Savlanut (patience), is the first word we learn in ulpan (Hebrew language class). When I meet with a new immigrant I reassure them with this word. Everything will be good in the end. The potential is enormous in Israel. The level of health care is high, giving many here a second chance at life.

One of my first experiences on the Ebenezer team was greeting a family on arrival at the airport. It was amazing to see them! The weary, happy parents had two children, ten bags weighing 20 kilos each and two electric pianos, all of which had to be crammed into a van for the journey north. We drove to Afula, speaking happily in Russian on the way.

It is difficult for people to begin their life again, like children, without the language,

even though they are highly educated professionals. And those who have made aliyah, returned to their original homeland, then come back to Israel again, receive no further help from the Ministry of Aliyah. But we are able to help.

For new olim, we are able to direct them to the correct government ministries, so they are not neglected. Because of our own experiences we can help others.

We long to see God's promises come to pass for His people. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'"* (Jeremiah 29:11).



Top: A young family arriving at Ben Gurion on route from Moscow to their new life in Israel.

Right: Stanislav and Iryna are both from Ukraine with Mikael, their baby son born in Israel (a Sabra!)

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.



Ebenezer Operation Exodus International & UK Office
PO Box 9103, Bournemouth
BH1 9DA, UK
+44 (0) 1202 294455
enquiries@ebenezer-ef.org
www.operation-exodus.org



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Asia Pacific
15 Park Rd, Seven Hills
NSW 2147, Australia
HP | Whatsapp +61 2 9838 7778
office@eoeaspac.org
www.eoeaspac.org



Ebenezer Emergency Fund New Zealand
P.O. Box 5319, Terrace End
Palmerston North 4441
Phone: + 64 (0) 6 3574883
ebenezer@xtra.co.nz
www.eoeaspac.org



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Singapore
Phone: +65 8611 8840
mail@eoes.org.sg
www.eoeaspac.org



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Israel
PO Box 28112
91280, Jerusalem, Israel
+972 2 624 3905
www.operation-exodus.org/israel
israel@ebenezer-ef.org



Operation Exodus Canada
Unit #456 7184-120th Street
Surrey, B.C. V3W 0M6, Canada
Phone: 1-877-500-1967
info@operationexodus.ca
www.operationexodus.ca



Operation Exodus USA
PO Box 568 Lancaster
NY 14086
Phone: 716 681 6300
info@operationexodususa.org
www.operationexodususa.org



Operation Exodus South Africa
PO Box 61887, Vaalpark,
1948 South Africa
Phone: +27 169 711 766
southafrica@ebenezer-ef.org
www.operation-exodus.org