



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

CHALLENGES OF THE GROWING ALIYAH



“THEN THEY WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD
THEIR GOD, FOR THOUGH I SENT THEM INTO EXILE
AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL GATHER THEM TO
THEIR OWN LAND, NOT LEAVING ANY BEHIND.”

EZEKIEL 39:28

A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel



INTERNATIONAL



JOHANNES BARTHEL
REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Being in Israel during the summer period was a very blessed and fruitful time. We saw with our own eyes how new olim arrive in the land of their fathers and it was especially wonderful to see families with children eagerly anticipating their new life in the Land. Thirteen of us, Ebenezer Operation Exodus workers and volunteers, were privileged to take part in a huge aliyah welcome celebration at Ben Gurion airport in July and rejoice with these new arrivals.

Aliyah numbers are growing fast: there was a 24 per cent increase in worldwide aliyah in the first seven months of 2019. This is a big challenge for our teams. To stay faithful to our calling, especially in the former Soviet Union, we need financial and logistic miracles. For so many years we prayed for God to stir up the Jewish people. Today the stirring gets more visible and we do not want to have to refuse any olim that need help from us. God leaves no one behind and neither should we.

We have seen fruit from our Invest in Israel campaign. The new Haifa House for olim opened on 25 August and we

plan to host hundreds of olim there every year. A generous donation enabled us to finance four apartments in Ashdod, which will be used for olim and Holocaust survivors struggling financially. To give the poor in society a dignified place to live is something on God's heart (Psalm 41:1).

We continue to help Jewish people to make aliyah and this includes their Klitah too. Klitah is a Hebrew word and means 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). This is a vital part of the aliyah process and it seems to become more and more important for us as a ministry. But it needs extraordinary efforts. We believe that soon God will give us even more apartments or houses to host olim and enable us to give particular help in emergency situations as we did in Mevo Modi'im, a village which was destroyed in a terrorist attack. You can see a video about this on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/EbenezerOperationExodus>



Left to right:
Haifa House, Israel;
young olim;
young adults
praying in Israel.





ING ALIYAH

As aliyah numbers grow it is crucial that more people join our international Ebenezer family. The most precious gift we have are the hundreds of volunteer helpers, intercessors and supporters. We try to involve churches as much as possible, but we also see that in many places congregations are struggling to avoid being influenced by anti-Israel teaching and godless influences. We have the privilege of giving to the church a biblical message about God's eternal covenant with the people of Israel.

In July several groups of young adults aged 18-35 came to Israel. Seeing their desire to serve God in serving the Jewish people is very encouraging. Please support us in helping these young people to develop and find their place within the Ebenezer family. Jesus and the apostles give us a good example by making disciples. Are we willing to let young people develop and give them more responsibility? It is a healthy way of multiplication and growth.

We have to remind ourselves and the ones we want to teach some basic principles of biblical discipleship:

- ✓ We are servants of God, not of man and not of our own desires.
- ✓ We are called by God's grace and He will equip us with all the gifts we need if we are faithful administrators.
- ✓ Giving is more important than receiving.
- ✓ Overcoming national barriers and prejudices is essential in order to work fruitfully together.
- ✓ We need to develop an attitude of putting God's kingdom first. That is especially important as we face our own challenges in our nations. Ebenezer will only function if we understand that we are part of a bigger calling!

We can't take it for granted that all churches produce dedicated believers who live holy God-fearing lives. There is very often a lack of prayer and Bible study. Let us pray that God shows us who are the ones he has prepared and called. In many nations some younger people have started to get involved with us. Let us encourage and support them and allow the Holy Spirit to give them new and creative ideas on how to develop our ministry. We know that it is not a question of techniques, but character and Christian lifestyle.

Finally, I would like to challenge us all to continue to take steps of faith. Through studying the Scriptures and understanding the times, we can have the full assurance that our work is not in vain. Our Jewish friends would say aliyah is holy and a mandate from God Almighty. The Bible teaches us in Romans 14:23 that everything that is not done out of faith is sin.

Let us not become negligent in prayer to the God of Israel, who is the Lord of the aliyah. I encourage you to pray regularly for at least one nation where our teams work with olim, for one specific worker or board member, and that God will show each one of us what we can do to be prepared for present and future challenges.

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.

Klitah 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).



ALIYAH AWAKENING IN RUSSIA

RUSSIA



BORIS VASYUKOV
RUSSIA NATIONAL
DIRECTOR

Aliyah from Russia is experiencing unprecedented growth. According to official figures from the Jewish Agency for Israel, 10,673 olim made aliyah from Russia in 2018. This was an increase of 46 per cent compared to the previous year. Many of them were helped by Ebenezer.

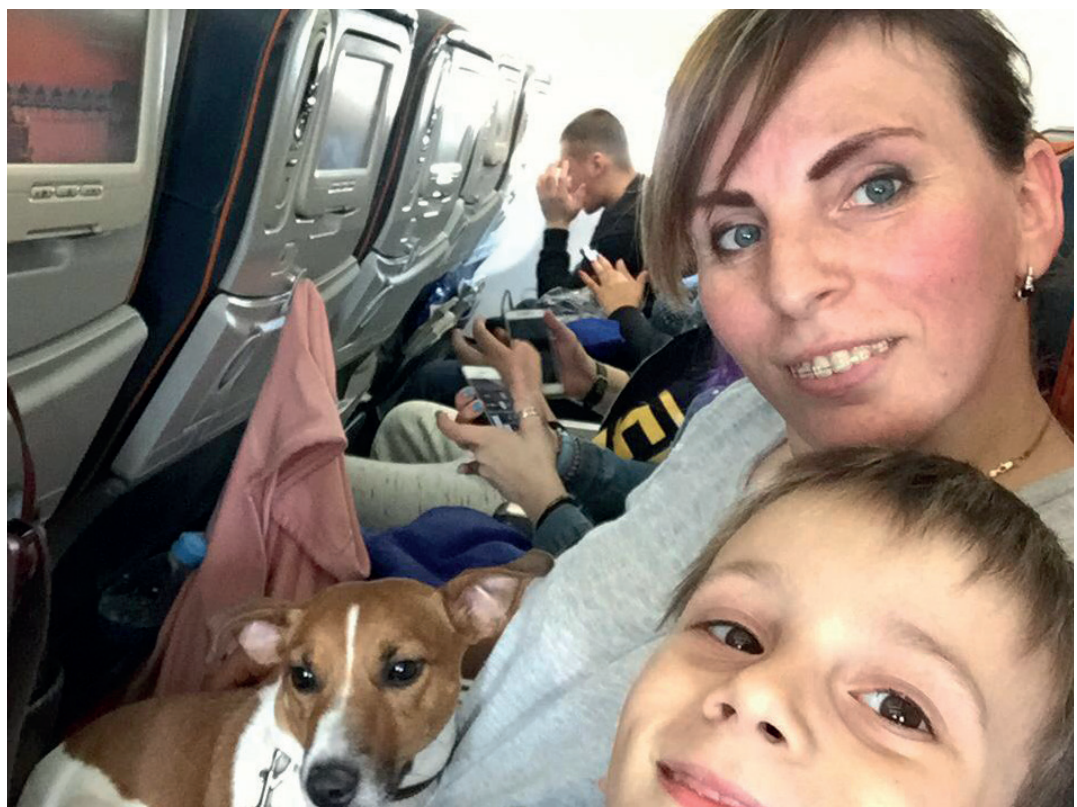
Aliyah is increasing this year too. So far we have helped 30 per cent more olim from Russia than in the same period last year. It could well be that by the end of 2019 as many as 5,500 Jewish people will have gone to the Promised Land with our assistance.

This increase in Russia has kept our Moscow team very busy indeed! About 300 olim per month fly to Israel from here (there are, as a rule, 2-3 Jewish Agency-financed flights each week). They are provided with transport and helped in other

practical ways by our team. Three ministry vehicles work practically non-stop. We deeply appreciate the help of believers from Moscow churches in transporting the olim and their luggage to the airport for their flights to Israel. They willingly minister to the Jewish families with their own vehicles.

Ebenezer teams in the Russian Far East, Siberia, the Urals, the Southern District of Russia and North Caucasus have also risen to the challenge of helping increasing numbers of Jewish families make aliyah.

Why is aliyah from Russia currently experiencing such a unique growth, whilst aliyah from other nations has either dropped or only seen a marginal increase? Some people have suggested it might be because of worsening living conditions in Russia, but in fact the situation is not that bad. The Russian economy has enjoyed stable performance in recent years.



*Their dog was
able to fly to
Israel too!*



So what has really caused the sharp increase in aliyah?

One of the answers could be that Ebenezer has been operating in Russia for 24 years, not only in assisting Jewish people with aliyah but also in bringing to Russian evangelical congregations an understanding of God's plan and purposes for Israel, and the church in the end times. We went through long, hard times of rejection, as our message was not accepted by many of the churches, but, nonetheless, we did not lose heart and kept knocking on their doors.

Today the evangelical church in Russia is experiencing a true awakening regarding Israel. The Body of Messiah has raised its voice for the Jewish people, while the Judeo-Christian dialogue has been developing and expanding across the nation. Interchurch Prayer for Israel meetings take place on a regular basis

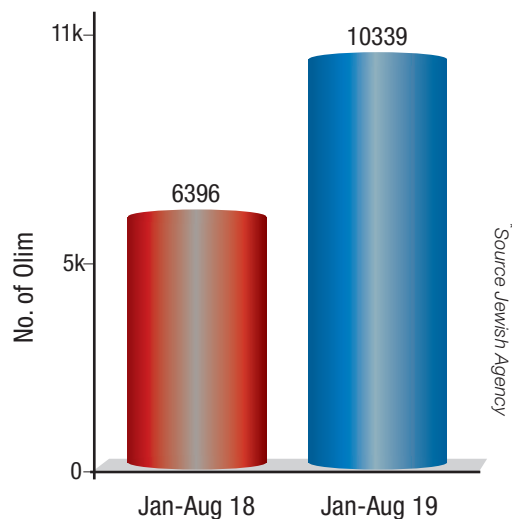
all over the country. A new project, yearly All-Russian Prayer for Israel Marathons, will be launched in 2020. So far it has gained support from about 250 Christian congregations across Russia.

Thank you for partnering with us and for your financial support which allows us to help so many Jewish families to return to Israel in fulfillment of God's plans for His people.

Please pray for the unprecedented growth of aliyah from Russia to continue and for a greater awakening of the Russian church in regard to Israel.



Aliyah from Russia increases by 62%*



Reaching the church across Russia.



OVERCOMING DOUBTS

UZBEKISTAN

Alisher, Muslima and their four children were among 18 Jewish families I recently met in Uzbekistan. They had applied to make aliyah seven years ago but were turned down because they didn't have the correct documents. With our help they reapplied and were successful

their documents once again as there was now a new consul, so we took them to the consular office where they received the approval to book their flights to Tel Aviv.

Please pray for Alish, Musilma and their family that the Lord will plant them firmly in the Land.



ZHANNA
UZBEKISTAN LEADER

Although they had no property to sell and there was nothing to delay their departure, Alisher and Muslima began to hesitate about moving to Israel because they had doubts about being able to integrate into Israeli way of life. It didn't help that Alisher had been in a car accident years before and was on a meagre disability allowance and that their eldest son suffered cerebral palsy.

We did our best to encourage them, bringing them humanitarian aid in the way of food and clothes. Thankfully, Alisher and Muslima took our advice and set their final preparations in motion. They had to submit



Top: Alisher & Muslima & family about to board the plane for Israel.

KAZAKHSTAN

SPREADING THE ALIYAH MESSAGE



ZHANSOLU
KAZAKHSTAN LEADER

Visiting churches around the country recently I was blessed by warm welcomes from pastors and congregations eager to hear me talk about God's plan for Israel and aliyah.

I saw God's hand was upon the whole trip, in every visit I made. Glory to Him for His grace and mercy!

One such place was Taraz, where I visited four small churches of 30-50 people. They listened attentively as I explained Ebenezer Operation Exodus helps the Jewish people make aliyah. One of the pastors invited me to visit his family at home and we enjoyed good fellowship there over tea.

In Taraz I also visited some Jewish people at a community centre and gave out 30 food parcels for needy people. There were a large number of young people at this meeting and many of them declared their intention of going to Israel.



A young man receiving a food parcel and information about aliyah.

FOLLOWING HIS SON

Konstantin's eldest son had gone to Israel through the Sela study programme. Now he was ready to follow.

Konstantin, his wife Oxana and their children lived in eastern Ukraine. Konstantin was a locksmith on the railway and Oxana worked as a bookkeeper until her daughter was born and she became a housewife.

Their eldest son, Alexei, made aliyah four years ago through the Sela programme, after which he served in the military (IDF) where he managed to study Hebrew and English. He then got a job and applied for university.

It was while visiting his son in Israel about 18 months ago that Konstantin learned more about life in the Land. He was stirred up to follow his son and shortly

afterwards, he and the rest of the family applied for Aliyah. They successfully got their visas, made aliyah in March and are now settling down to life in Eilat. They were very grateful for our help.



UKRAINE



TATIANA
UKRAINE REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE

Top: Eilat sea front
on the Red Sea.
Left: Konstantin and his
family departing for Israel.

TO ISRAEL AT LAST

Vladimir had been willing to go to Israel for a long time, but sadly he had to postpone his aliyah for several years!

At first, he had to look after his elderly parents, whom he could not leave in Russia. This was tragically followed by his wife becoming ill and then passing away. This kept him from joining his children who had made aliyah some 13 years earlier. His brother and his family had also been helped by Ebenezer to make aliyah many years ago.

We kept in contact and when the time came we helped him prepare his documents and provided him with transport to attend his consular appointment. The momentous day came last December when we took him to the airport to catch his aliyah flight. He knew his children were looking forward to their father joining them.

He was keen to settle down and find work in Israel. We were so happy for him!

Thankfully, God's prophecies about aliyah has been fulfilled in Vladimir's life!



RUSSIA



LENA
SOCHI REPRESENTATIVE

Vladimir with Lena.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

USA



DEBRA MINOTTI
USA PRESIDENT

We assisted 13 of our Jewish friends on an aliyah group flight in September. One of them was Andres. This is his story:

"I had the opportunity of a lifetime. My senior class was sponsored by The Shoah Foundation to travel to Paris to visit the Shoah Museum as well as to Poland to visit the site of the concentration camp of Auschwitz. I don't think there will ever be a more profound or heartfelt experience than when I passed through the gates of Auschwitz. The sheer magnitude of the simple act of walking through where families were marched to their deaths was almost too much for me to bear.

We see the representation of the Holocaust so often that sometimes we become numb to it. However, being there in person brings it all rushing back; you realise this happened right where you are standing. I don't think I've ever met a Jewish person whose family hasn't been affected by the Holocaust in one way or another.

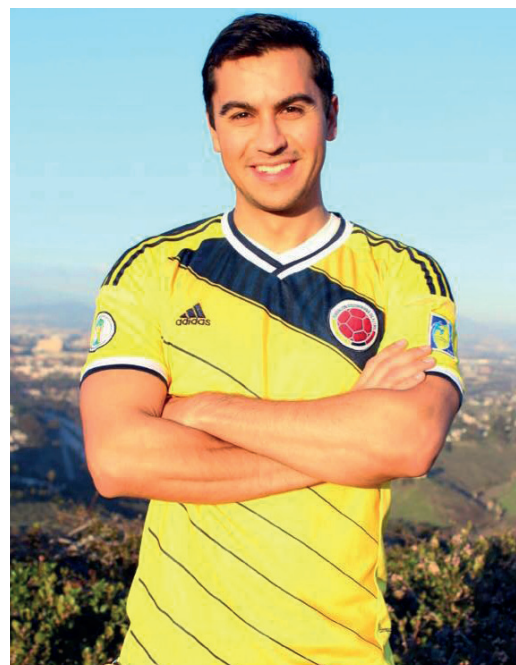
I lived in San Diego County; recently we had an anti-Semitic shooting at a Chabad in our community. Just the night before I was at a Shabbat dinner during Pesach at another Chabad house. I was shaken, I couldn't believe that this would hit so close to home. I am worried

Andres: happy to be home in Israel.

for my friends and family, but if we are to overcome hate we must keep going and be who we are, proud Jews.

Israel is our birthright as the Jewish people, and I intend to make the most of it. Continuing what generations before me have sought, now I have the opportunity to make it a reality."

Please remember to pray for olim like Andres as they settle in the Land.



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Join us in Jerusalem for our 30th Anniversary Conference

- From:** 15 Nov (Sunday) – 20 Nov (Friday) 2020
Venue: Yehuda Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel
Price: \$890 per person (based on twin share)
\$1250 per person (single room)
Includes: Conference programme, all meals, 5 nights accommodation at Yehuda Hotel, Half day excursion

To register your interest email israelconf20@ebenezer-ef.org

**'Therefore
THE REDEEMED OF
THE LORD
will return' ISAIAH 51:11**





UK

Over the past few months we have had the privilege of assisting several Jewish people to move to Israel.

One of them, Alexandra, shares her experience of making aliyah: *"Everything has gone smoothly. I have had some beautiful moments ... even simply breathing in the sea air is refreshing, making me feel right at home."*

Our weekly Parasha (portion of the Torah) was on the marriage of Bnei Yisrael (the nation) to the land of Israel. Ten of those sent to the land of Israel became known as spies, because of their attitude of looking for weaknesses and challenges, rather than ambassadors, who go out trying to build and negotiate a relationship that's long-lasting and solid (like Joshua and Caleb). Each one of us must learn to focus on being ambassadors when we arrive, building and negotiating solid foundations for a long-lasting and happy marriage between each one of us and the land of Israel! Thanks again a million times for being part of what made it possible."

Rob, Lucy and their three daughters left their home in Golders Green and, unusually for UK olim, have chosen to live in Katzrin in the Golan Heights. We were helping them on departure day when a neighbour walked by and asked if they were going on holiday. They told him they were making aliyah to Katzrin and amazingly he said he had a holiday home there and invited them to visit!

Rob thanked us for all our help with the move: "I am pleased to say that we have made it to the Golan with our 15 suitcases, 5 pieces of hand luggage and 3 kids!"

Sharon also thanked us for helping her make aliyah. Having left Dublin at 17, she marketed hi-tech equipment for the medical profession throughout the Middle East and was the first woman to do business in this way in Arab countries. The main reason she and her family made aliyah was the unfavourable climate for Jews in the UK and her son (13) had experienced anti-Semitic bullying at school.



ALISON EASTWOOD
UK DIRECTOR



Top: Rob, Lucy and their children at Heathrow airport, London.
Left: Some of their 15 suitcases!
Right: Their first sunset in Katzrin, Israel.



EQUIPPING THE LEADERS

PHILIPPINES



PETE STUCKEN
CHAIRMAN ASIA
PACIFIC REGION

An Ebenezer Operation Exodus conference to equip pastors and leaders in the Philippines was held in Davao City, Mindanao, the major southern province, in July. The keynote speaker was Steve Lightle. Nigel Woodley and Abe Oommen, Ebenezer Asia Pacific Board members, brought further valuable teaching.

Steve brought a fresh and powerful message on aliyah — a mighty move of God in our day, which the Father is doing in preparing for the return of His Son Yeshua in great glory.

Following the conference Steve wrote:

“Twice in Isaiah 43 God speaks of His witnesses, just after He shares about aliyah, the return of the Jewish people to Israel, He would say to the north “Give them up” and to the south, “Do not hold them back. Bring my sons and daughters from the ends of the earth.” We are the witnesses today of God’s answer to Isaiah’s prophetic word, declared thousands of years ago. He’s doing it right in front of our eyes just as Ezekiel prophesied in chapter 36. It is

a tremendous blessing He has allowed me to speak about all over the world.”

Prior to the Philippines conference Steve was part of a four-member team for some weeks in China, then in Indonesia “and last night returned home from the first Operation Exodus conference in the Philippines ... It was truly a conference prepared in much prayer, even from some decades ago, I found out. The presence of the Lord was with us from entering the building right on through.

There was an excitement in the spirit and great expectation of the attendees not having any clue of what the Lord was going to bring forth. He didn’t disappoint ... The first thing I taught them was the word, ‘Aliyah.’ In Hebrew it means “to go up, or ascend.” It’s the word Israel has chosen to represent the return of the Jewish people home to Israel. I came to find out 99.9% knew nothing about the Jewish people going home ... As they began to understand WHY God is returning the Jewish people home and what it has to do with the Philippines, they became so excited!”



Top: Pete & Fiona Stucken with the Los Banos prayer partners.
Left to Right: Steve Lightle & Pete.
Boholst Family: Pastor Menelao, Rianne, Lea, & Pastor Aijelom.

EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYER

In any battle situation it is vitally important to come against the opponent with our most effective weapons. As believers we face a spiritual battle for which God gives us a powerful tool for victory — prayer! Prayer is strong enough to overcome the opposition we are facing. As Dr Kingsley Priddy (Bible College of Wales) wrote in a letter to Ebenezer's founder, Gustav Scheller, *"Prayer will overcome every kind of opposition to the full second exodus taking place."*

James 5:16 assures us that *"the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* To emphasise, prayer achieves much. But we need to be aware that there are conditions which affect whether our prayers will bear fruit or not.

For our prayers to *"avail much"* they must be *"effective"*. This means we need to pray in accordance with our Father's will and we need to surrender our own will to His will. Intercession is making ourselves available to the Holy Spirit. Then things which concern God become our concern and we share the same goals as God Himself.

This surrender of our wills then leads our prayers to become *"fervent"*. When the Lord joins our hearts to His, the Holy Spirit stirs in us the passion and concern we need to pray with fervour.

There is also an important connection between effective, fervent prayer and righteousness. We thank the Lord for the position He has given us through Yeshua, for the righteousness that comes from Him.

"This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD (Isaiah 54:17).

Let us fear God with reverence! May our hearts always be open to Him for guidance and correction, so that we continue to abide in Him and we clearly hear His leading as we pray.

Standing upon these scriptural truths, let us continue to pray *"effectively"*, *"fervently"* and in *"righteousness"* for the return of the Jewish people to Israel — for we are assured that our prayers will avail much!

PRAYER



ELIZABETH WEBB
PRAYER TEAM

 **engage:Israel**

Coming July/Aug 2020
(18-35+)



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

16 – 27 JULY
ENGAGE:EXPLORERS — A tour to see the Bible come to life, experience God in a whole new way — perfect for your first time to Israel.

27 JULY – 3 AUGUST
ENGAGE:DEEPER — For those wanting to be challenged and ready to go deeper — a week of focussed bible teaching, combined with worship and prayer based out of Haifa.

Watch this space or enquire to info@engage-israel.org



HAIFA HOUSE
FOR OLIM
בית עולים חיפה

OPENS ITS DOORS

ISRAEL



MARKUS & RAHEL ACKERMANN
HAIFA HOUSE FOR OLIM

For many years we lived on a kibbutz in Israel but in 2012 God led us back to Germany. He told us that one day we would return to Israel and that this time He would settle us here.

Then in August 2018 we were accompanying a Jewish woman from Germany to the airport for her group aliyah flight and at the farewell celebration in Berlin we were introduced to a new project in Israel. It appealed to us right away. We brought it before God in prayer and were thankful when the answer came! Ebenezer approached us to ask if we would serve as host family and caretakers of the new Haifa House for olim. We felt a strong "yes" and the door opened for us.

We left Germany in June and carried out intensive weeks of work on the house

during the heat of the Israeli summer, assisted by a great team of international volunteers! Whilst the work took place we went through a similar process to what the olim experience upon arriving: complicated and challenging bureaucracy, numerous visits to local offices, school applications, car purchases, insurance policies etc. Again and again we felt stretched to our limits with the language and culture in Israel, as well as living as a family on a building site for almost three months. Nonetheless, we saw God's hand in it all! We thank Him for leading us here in this way so we can truly understand the olim who will be coming here.

The first of our olim, a young man from Ukraine, arrived at the end of September. It was a very special day!

We are grateful for this amazing privilege of welcoming God's Jewish people here when they return from the Diaspora into the land of their inheritance! It is evidence of God's faithfulness and the truth of His prophetic word!

Please pray for the people God sends to this home. Pray that they experience His love and faithfulness here. Please also pray for wisdom and strength for us. May His name be glorified through everything!



The Ackerman family at the Haifa House opening ceremony.

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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