



EBENEZER  
OPERATION EXODUS

# ALIYAH

## FROM RUSSIA BEATS ALL RECORDS



“SURELY THESE SHALL COME FROM AFAR;  
LOOK! THOSE FROM THE NORTH...”

ISAIAH 49:12

*A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel*



# AS A SHEPHERD KEEPS HIS FLOCK

INTERNATIONAL



PETE STUCKEN  
CHAIRMAN  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD

*"He who scattered Israel shall gather him, and keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock." Jeremiah 31:10*

*"Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'" Isaiah 46:10*

**Imagine being a bystander in ancient Egypt at the time of the first Exodus, watching from a rooftop as Pharaoh's mighty army rumbles out in hot pursuit of the Israelites. Pharaoh has changed his mind; he orders: 'Get the Israelites back and hold them captive!'. The large company of Israelites had not long departed: young and old, men, women, teenagers, children and babies, even expectant mothers. They were laden with goods and equipment, with provisions, even livestock alongside, tramping eastwards into the wilderness. Now a world superpower's impressive military is in pursuit. As an observer you may well have thought that this first 'aliyah' of the Jewish people was unlikely to succeed.**

The scene is now set for the God of Israel to demonstrate His purpose and bring glory to His name.

The Israelites arrive at the shores of the Red Sea. The Egyptian army closes the pursuit, coming right up to their camp. What now? A daunting surprise for the Egyptian commanders: the Angel of the Lord moves behind the Israelite camp, creating a terrifying barrier. Through the night, the Egyptian army is held back. In the meantime Moses has stretched out his rod over the sea. Many prayers are being prayed through those night hours. Only at the last moment, with nowhere to go, are the Israelites delivered from their enemy: the Red Sea parts to give them safe passage. Almighty God moves to fulfill his purpose: "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all

My good pleasure". There was a great deliverance. The weapons of the enemy were blunted. The long journey into the Promised Land, this momentous historic aliyah of two million people, proceeds.

Some three thousand years later, on 14 May 1948, David Ben Gurion stands in front of 250 guests in the Tel Aviv Museum, pronouncing the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. One might call it the Re-Establishment. Israel is back on the map, never to be uprooted again. Rejoicing and dancing break out in the streets, but observers around the world see dim prospects for the fledgling nation state. Mounting tensions and threats from hostile Arab armies all point to an impending invasion. Expert strategists in the British Foreign Ministry and USA's CIA predict a resounding defeat for Israel's under-equipped military force, the Haganah. This was rational analysis: the Arab nations had both air forces and regular ground forces with heavy weapons and armour. The Haganah lacked all of these. Against all odds the fledgling forces of the newly reborn nation prevail. Somehow the weapons of Israel's enemies are again blunted. The God of Israel establishes His purpose and brings glory to His holy Name.

Through subsequent wars and still today we see Israel surrounded by those intent on her destruction. Yet the Jewish people keep coming. From all nations, indeed from the far corners of the earth. Why? Surely Israel's shepherd is gathering those whom He scattered, establishing His redemptive purpose. They will welcome the soon-returning Messiah King when He comes to take up the throne of His father David.

It's our privilege and our calling to help the Jewish people home: from Russia and Ukraine, from the Central Asian republics, from France; from USA; from Canada; from the United Kingdom; from Latin America; from Central and Eastern Europe; from India; from South Africa; from Asia Pacific;

*Front cover: Our team in Khabarovsk, Russia, had the privilege of assisting this large family with accommodation prior to their departure to Israel.*





from the four corners of the earth. They continue to come. Last year we were able to help more Russian Jews make aliyah than we have for almost a decade.

Our vision is to see a growing number of Christians around the world extend love to the Jewish people and be prepared to help them in their aliyah. This breaks the deplorable pattern of past centuries, which mostly saw Christians indifferent, standing aloof, or even deliberately persecuting Jewish communities. As we see the Body of Messiah equipped with understanding, love and prayer for the Jewish people rises up and practical help begins to flow. A major part of our vision is to prepare and equip believers for the days ahead.

The aliyah of large Jewish communities across the world is just beginning. Multitudes are yet to make aliyah from across the nations. There is massive

opportunity ahead and the needs are great. The task is huge, the labourers are few. Difficulties, obstructions, limitations, pressures are many. The aliyah is a holy purpose of God; it is not without opposition. In the midst of it all we know: the Lord's purpose will prevail. Almighty God Himself is the One doing the gathering!

We believe that in God's perfect timing the full momentum of the future aliyah will be unleashed by prayer. We count ourselves called to this purpose. We seek to align ourselves with Him. Often it is at significant personal cost.

We persevere in prayer, reminding ourselves: **He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.**

Now is the time to join us in prayer and prepare for all that lies ahead!

### 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).



David Ben Gurion reading the Declaration of the Independence of Israel in the museum in Tel Aviv. A young French Jewish girl happy to be in Israel.





RUSSIA



**BORIS VASYUKOV**  
RUSSIA NATIONAL  
DIRECTOR

**T**he Ebenezer office in Moscow worked intensively throughout 2019 because of a steady flow of aliyah from Moscow, which has grown to such an extent that it has been quite a challenge for the team to provide transport to the airport for all the olim for their flights to Israel. We have three staff drivers plus more than 15 others who are volunteers from the local Moscow churches, to help in getting those making aliyah and their luggage to flight check-in.

Early one morning I walked into our office to find Oleg, our Aliyah Coordinator, very upset.

There was a big pile of applications from olim on his desk: the written requests for help with transport to the airport for an aliyah flight scheduled for the following day. With tears in his eyes, Oleg said, "Boris, there are 28 applications from 28 families, in total, more than 70 people, as well as about 150 suitcases and 300 smaller bags, needing to be delivered to the airport for the same evening flight from the Domodedovo airport. This means driving through the whole of Moscow and struggling to pass through the enormous traffic congestion on the roads. It might take the drivers from 3-5 hours to get to the airport." And, Oleg added, many of these volunteers couldn't help: "I don't know what to do!"

We called the team together for prayer and the Lord did a miracle by providing drivers and vehicles for all the olim. So by late afternoon all the applications had been distributed among those who had agreed to do the journeys.

For the second year in a row, aliyah from Russia has seen an unprecedented growth. After analyzing the statistics I found that there has been a 24 per cent increase in the number of olim over the past year, as compared to the record year of 2018!

Besides, aliyah is no longer dominated by older Jewish people. Today most of the immigrants are young and well-educated. Some of them have their own businesses, some have families. They are quite motivated to go to Israel because they see the prospects of new opportunities and a better future for themselves and their children in the Land. They are eager to live in the land of their forefathers and identify with their Jewish traditions.

I have been thinking a lot about the true reasons of the growth of aliyah from Russia. Many people explain it by the worsening economic and political situation in the country. I have been involved in the Ebenezer ministry for 22 years, when we had to overcome various problems in Russia. I am convinced that today is not the most difficult and troubling time. It is not the internal problems in Russia that impel the young Jews to leave for Israel. I believe there are four major motives for the current mass aliyah from Russia:

*Photo right: 73-year old Boris, lived 200 km away from Moscow. His flat was burgled so he gathered all his documents and left. He had nowhere to go but was eager to go to Israel. Our driver Boris took him to a hostel which Ebenezer paid for. In just three days we drove Boris to the airport and he went to Israel. Boris is at home now.*







- ✓ God's call. The Jewish people know the voice of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They can hear His voice but they have not responded to that for a while. Nonetheless He continues to call them home and they are starting to respond to Him.
- ✓ Jewish radio. Those who have settled in the Promised Land share positive updates with their loved ones and friends still remaining in Russia, encouraging them to make aliyah too. This does work!
- ✓ The harmonious and effective work of the Jewish Agency. They have altered their methods, prioritising projects and programmes for young people.
- ✓ The prayers of the evangelical churches of Russia for Israel and its involvement in preserving the memory of Holocaust victims.

Today the Russian evangelical church is experiencing a real awakening regarding the Jewish people and Israel. The first

All-Russian Prayer Marathon of the Judeo-Christian Dialogue, covering a vast region from Kamchatka to Kaliningrad, took place on January 30th. Over 350 evangelical congregations joined the marathon. About 12,000 believers attended the meetings and more than 20,000 people joined the prayers via the internet during the 13 hours it was being broadcast.

We believe that though all this prayer the Lord is causing the Jewish people from Russia to return to their homeland.

To receive the **latest prayer news** from all over the world, simply email [prayer@ebenezer-ef.org](mailto:prayer@ebenezer-ef.org) or visit [www.operation-exodus.org/prayer](http://www.operation-exodus.org/prayer)

**To see a short film clip about aliyah from Russia, please go to:**

<https://youtu.be/deiNOF2NRts>







# TALE OF TWO VIKTORS

UKRAINE



**YANYA**  
UKRAINE  
REPRESENTATIVE

**A** stroke the year before had made Viktor postpone making aliyah and he was still quite weak. But he was determined that this time he would go!

One of our team members, a big, strong brother also called Viktor, helped Viktor into the minibus for the trip to the airport. It was indeed a moment of victory for a story that had begun five years previously when we had visited Viktor and his family.

That was when we explained about the opportunity to make aliyah, but he didn't seem interested at the time. His son, however, decided that this was a chance to get away from the fighting in eastern Ukraine and he and his wife made aliyah a year later.

It took Viktor a long time to make up his mind to go to Israel. Finally however, the protracted conflict plus repeated calls from his son, prompted him to make the decision and he contacted us for help. We helped him gather together all his documents but

a few days before his flight he suffered a stroke. The left side of his body was paralysed and moving to Israel had to be postponed. In one devastating moment all his plans were brought to a standstill.

A year later, although he was still quite weak, we were delighted to receive a phone call from him saying that he still wanted to make aliyah and asking if we would help him. His Israeli visa had expired by then so another appointment with the Israeli consul had to be made but eventually everything came together and the long-awaited day of aliyah arrived.

Big Viktor of our Ebenezer team arrived and gently lifted Viktor up and put him into the minibus. "How am I going to manage at the airport?" he asked. "Relax and stop worrying!" his wife Lyudmila said.

All went well and Viktor and Lyudmila were very happy to be making aliyah and joining their son and his family for a new life in Israel!





# MATTER OF THE HEART

**E**fim and his wife Udla lived in Moldova but had decided that their future lay with their son and his wife in Israel. Things were complicated by the fact that Efim had a heart condition and needed urgent surgery. They could not wait until the Israeli consul visited Chisinau, Moldova's capital, so we took them to the consul in Ukraine.

Thankfully the appointment was straightforward and because Ebenezer paid for the urgent processing of documents and for their passports, they received their visas straight away. Efim and Udla were booked on the aliyah flight that left a few days later and we took them to the airport. They were looking forward to being met in Israel by their son and his wife who had made aliyah the year before, in 2018.

Efim and Udla were so thankful to Ebenezer for the help which enabled them to leave for Israel so quickly.



MOLDOVA



PAVEL & LINA  
MOLDOVA LEADERS

## PETS WENT TOO!

**M**aking aliyah is a big step and to leave behind beloved pets can make the process very stressful. We recently helped Valery and his wife Daria plus their daughter Irina and her children to make aliyah with their pet and the young family of Alexander and Nadejda to go to live in Israel with their dog.

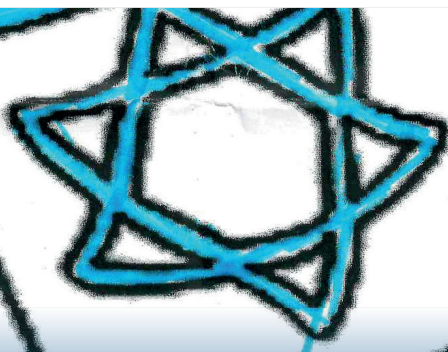
Valery and Daria went to their son near Haifa and we believe God will bless them in the land as they attempt to start a new life. They were very thankful to Ebenezer for paying for the urgent processing of their documents at the Visas and Registration Department and also for practical assistance and advice.

Alexander, Nadejda and their three young boys and dog moved to Bat Yam to be near Alexander's mother, who has been in Israel for several years. She was thrilled to see them!





Thank you,  
for helping us  
to Israel!



# A MODERN-DAY MIRACLE

USA



SHIRLEY LAWRENSON  
NEW YORK CITY  
ALIYAH DIRECTOR

**A**ssisting Jewish people to fulfill their dream to make aliyah is a modern-day miracle. We are living in amazing end-time days. At Operation Exodus USA, as in many other nations, we have had the privilege to assist Jewish people to return home to Eretz Israel.

Aliyah comes from the unconditional love of our Father's heart!

The Lord has called us to help and bless Jewish people to 'return' to the land of their forefathers. During 2019, the team in the USA were privileged to assist 700 of them to make their dream of starting a new life in the Promised Land come true. *"In His love and mercy He redeemed them; He lifted them and carried them..."* Isaiah 63:9.

When we connect with the families, they open up and share with us why they are making aliyah at this time. Among them were Jarret and family. They explain:

*"So much on our mind!!!! We're making aliyah because we believe it to be an*

*obligation that every Jew do their very best to go to Israel. We're not going to have all of the comforts ... We're not going to have the same support system etc. But this is the right thing to do – to be with our other 'brothers' and 'sisters' in our holy land, breathing in all of the spirituality and rich history of our land and connecting with the land, 'a living land', that we believe has an incredible ability to raise us up to lofty spiritual levels."*

Connecting with the children and getting their input about how they experience the decision to move to Israel is always a blessing. Many use pictures to share their thoughts with us. One of the Jarret family's children sent us the one with this article as a 'Thank you' for the support we provided.

Aliyah is God's prophetic Word in motion: a modern-day miracle! It is a miracle that is happening every day. The Jewish people are going home from the north and the south, from the east and the west. **To God be the glory!**



Top: A wonderful thank you picture from Jarret (pictured bottom left) with his family who we helped make aliyah.



# INVESTING IN ISRAEL

**“Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.” Isaiah 49:17**

The word “builders” can be also translated sons or children. Isaiah foresaw the time when the children of Israel would return home. What he had seen in the far future we are experiencing today: the Jewish people are returning and the land of Israel is being built out of the ruins.

Ebenezer understands that investing in Israel is investing God’s love into God’s people through practical help. Two years ago we started our Invest in Israel programme and the most visible fruit of this so far is the Haifa House, where we expect to host hundreds of olim every year.

We also received a donation to finance four apartments in Ashdod for olim or Holocaust survivors on low retirement incomes. Jewish people understand that we Christians not only bring them home to the land but also care for them after their arrival.

For 2020 we want to enlarge Invest in Israel to give believers the opportunity to support a single special project which directly affects Jewish lives. If God has

blessed you or your business and you desire to make a special meaningful investment beside your regular support for the aliyah work, consider yourself invited to be part of this programme.

The original idea was to look for apartments to accommodate olim which you can buy and administer in your name. While still an option, feedback has revealed that this is too complicated for some people or too much money to invest. So we want to offer you a variety of projects like:

- ✓ Sponsoring a group aliyah flight.
- ✓ Sponsoring a representative, who helps olim in their aliyah process.
- ✓ Sponsoring a volunteer or full-time worker in Israel, who supports the olim after their arrival in the land.
- ✓ Donating money for buying apartments for a first stay after making aliyah.
- ✓ Sponsoring young Christians to be part of a teaching tour through Israel.
- ✓ Sponsoring special aliyah operations (very often emergency help).

Please support our Invest in Israel programme in prayer, that our Christian testimony in helping the Jewish people return and settle in the land of Israel will bear much fruit.

ISRAEL



JOHANNES BARTHEL  
REGIONAL COORDINATOR

*If you would like to invest and want further information please email [johannes.barthel@ebenezer-international.de](mailto:johannes.barthel@ebenezer-international.de)*







# OUR FAITH IS PRECIOUS

## PRAYER



EVA AXNICH  
GERMANY PRAYER  
COORDINATOR

**O**ur prayers for aliyah are based solely on the Word of God and the conviction that His Word is true. Therefore we encourage our prayer partners to proclaim the Scriptures over the Jewish people and specific situations.

A long-time intercessor once told me that the Lord had interrupted her during prayer and asked her, "Do you really believe what you are praying for?" It came as a shock and made her examine her faith in a deep way.

It is possible for us to know, quote and pray all the relevant scriptures without being fully united with the Word in our hearts. *"... but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it"* (Hebrews 4:2). Without faith our prayers accomplish nothing. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Therefore, it is crucial that we, in our personal lives as well as in our intercession for aliyah, allow the Holy Spirit to test and purify our faith. The cleansing of our faith is part of our sanctification, which we

are to pursue (Hebrews 12:14). It is only through faith that the letter of Scripture becomes the living Word of God.

What does "faith" mean? I have heard this simple definition: "Faith is simply trusting God that He is trustworthy to do what He says He will do." This is valid even if we find it difficult at times to accept that God's timing does not conform to ours.

Our Father in Heaven is waiting for our prayers of faith! We cannot impress Him with our great knowledge and many scriptures underlined in our Bibles. On the other hand, a childlike faith is highly precious to Him! This will open times of intercession with refreshment and joy, despite hardship and opposition!

I invite you to join me in this prayer: Lord, please purify my faith. I want to be united with your Word and hold it firm. Make me a true intercessor for the glory of your Name!

**To receive the latest prayer news from all over the world, email [prayer@ebenezer-ef.org](mailto:prayer@ebenezer-ef.org) or visit [www.operation-exodus.org/prayer](http://www.operation-exodus.org/prayer)**







# PRAISE HIM *In Jerusalem!*

15-20 NOVEMBER 2020, YEHUDA HOTEL

*Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him  
according to His excellent greatness!*

*Psalm 150:2*



EBENEZER  
OPERATION EXODUS

## Shalom!

The Ebenezer Operation Exodus International Board invite you to come and worship the Lord in Jerusalem!

The Lord has firmly impressed on our hearts that this will be a milestone event and your participation could make the difference as we will gather in Jerusalem for a special time of prayer, praise, worship and celebration. Every time His people fix their eyes on Him, He looks down from heaven and takes notice. When we pray, God speaks.

Our gathering together is to seek less of us and more of Him, so we are confident that the God of Israel will restore and renew, refresh, empower and equip us for the difficult times ahead.

We also believe that the Lord has prepared a word in season for the ministry and that lives will be changed. The union of prayer and word will bring an impact in the nations and in Israel. We pray that this invitation will meet with your expectations for a blueprint from heaven!

If you feel touched by the Lord, please contact your local Ebenezer representative or visit:

**[www.operation-exodus.org/int-conf20](http://www.operation-exodus.org/int-conf20) for prices and more details.**

**Cost:** 890 USD per person (double room) and 1250 USD (single room) FULL BOARD

See you in Jerusalem!

Gian Luca Morotti

*International Board member*

*Price Includes • Conference Programme • 5 nights full board and accommodation • Half day excursion*

8-15 NOVEMBER 2020

## STAND WITH ISRAEL TOUR (OPTIONAL)

We are delighted to offer a tour prior to the Ebenezer International conference with Hanna Ben Haim as our guide.

### Highlights include:

- Touring from the Negev in the south to the northern border
- A stop at the Gaza border
- A visit to the world famous SodaStream factory
- Exploring the famous Qumran caves and drive along the Jordan river
- A visit to our Haifa House for olim will show us how Christians can support Jewish immigrants in a practical way.

**Cost per person:** \$1245 USD (double room) \$1560 USD (single room) HALF BOARD

For more information and booking, visit [www.operation-exodus.org/israeltour20](http://www.operation-exodus.org/israeltour20)







ISRAEL

# VOLUNTEERING IN ISRAEL



JOHANNA REICHARDT  
GERMANY

**I**n the late summer of 2019 I was able to spend three months volunteering at Haifa House, a new Ebenezer project which offers olim a first place to stay after their arrival in Israel. It is our desire at the House to help them feel welcomed and cared for as they start a new life in the Land.

After the official opening of the Haifa House at the end of August, my tasks as a volunteer mainly revolved around taking care of the House itself. This meant being flexible and willing to assist where needed as our team worked together to create guidelines and routines for the now daily life at the house. And there were, of course, a lot of things that needed to be taken care of: cleaning, gardening, laundry, cooking, renovating, painting, decorating, plumbing, office work, safety regulations, sorting out insurance and much more.

It was thrilling to see that God had sent the right people to do this work. Everyone was able to find suitable tasks for themselves and assist other team members as well, so that each person's gifts and experiences helped in shaping the ministry of the House.

As well as the physical work, there was also the joy of getting to know the first olim. Even though there were a lot of language barriers to overcome and often not much time could be spent with

those who came to stay on an individual basis, the house was filled with a loving atmosphere and an understanding beyond words. It truly felt like a home to me.

Volunteering with Ebenezer can be a great way to use your gifts in helping others and joining people from all around the world who come together in Israel to serve in love. If you feel called to help in the work of aliyah, I highly recommend this experience. If you follow the Lord's leading you will always gain more than you give!



*If you would like to be a regular volunteer at our Haifa House, or if you have a trade or practical skill you are able to work in (electrician/plumber/carpenter), please contact Katie Stucken at [Volunteers@Ebenezer-ef.org](mailto:Volunteers@Ebenezer-ef.org)*

*Top: Last summer – installing the Haifa House signage.  
Right: Volunteers – Henoch and Gert-Peter smiling for the camera.*

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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