

## HEARTS STIRRED FOR ALIYAH



"THE LORD SAID, 'I HAVE CERTAINLY SEEN THE OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN EGYPT, AND HAVE HEARD THEIR OUTCRY BECAUSE OF THEIR TASKMASTERS, FOR I AM AWARE OF THEIR SUFFERINGS. SO I HAVE COME DOWN TO RESCUE THEM..." EXODUS 3:7-8 (NASB)

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"The LORD said, 'I have certainly seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their outcry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to rescue them...'" Exodus 3:7-8 (NASB)



INTERNATIONAL

PETE STUCKEN CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL BOARD

n calling Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, the Lord made it clear that it would take a series of severe judgments to unlock the gates of Egypt and free His people from slavery.

The Lord also said that He would harden Pharaoh's heart. This was already evident in the brutal slavery conditions he imposed on the Israelites.

As Moses stood before him, asking for Israel's release, Pharaoh hardened his heart (literally 'made his heart heavy, stubborn') on five consecutive occasions. After this we read that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart. He scarcely needed to. There was no fear of the Lord evident in Pharaoh despite the dramatic plague judgments. His heart was indeed hardened.

With an outstretched arm, with signs and wonders, with devastating destruction upon Pharaoh and his army, the Lord released His people from Egypt. This first aliyah into the Promised Land was an aliyah of rescue.

Not all Egyptians shared Pharaoh's hardness of heart. Some recognised that the Israelites in Goshen were spared the worst calamities. Israel's firstborn were safe through that first Passover. There grew a cautious respect in Egypt for the God of the Israelites, in some even a reverential fear of Him. Neighbouring Egyptians allowed the departing Israelites to help themselves to stock and valuables. Some joined the Israelites as they left. *Their hearts* had been stirred to reverence Israel's God. They were willing to assist, even participate in, this first aliyah.

The Israelites possessed the land of Israel but over the ensuing centuries drifted into idolatry. In the 8th century BC Isaiah foretold destruction and exile from the Land

but also prophesied of God's grace, mercy and redeeming love. In one prophecy, precise in its detail, Isaiah spoke of a king named Cyrus who would rise to help the sons of Jacob (Isaiah chapter 45).

The fulfilment would follow after some 200 years. Those who had survived Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of the southern Kingdom found themselves in Babylonian exile. By the rivers of Babylon they wept as they remembered Zion. In this setting Daniel studied the Scriptures and found Jeremiah's prophecy that Jerusalem's desolation would cease after 70 years (Jeremiah 29:10). Daniel prayed, his face towards Jerusalem.

Now the time had come: in a most remarkable turn of events, the Lord stirred up the heart of a Persian king, the ruler of the great Babylonian empire — Cyrus:



Right: Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh.

For a more in-depth study of this theme, see 'The Coming Threefold Spiritual Awakening' in our next L'Hitamek Educational periodical, Issue 10, shorturl.at/hrGPV



"...in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the **Lord** stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom ... 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to rebuild for Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Go up [literally 'make aliyah'] to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel ... the people of that place are to support him with silver and gold, with equipment and cattle, together with a voluntary offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites rose up, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up [make aliyah] to rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. And all of those around them encouraged them with articles

of silver, with gold, with equipment, cattle, and with valuables, aside from everything that was given as a **voluntary offering**" (Ezra 1:1-6, NASB).

Cyrus's heart was stirred up — and so were the hearts of the Jews. During the exodus from Egypt no stirring of hearts had been needed. The oppressive conditions of slavery in Egypt made aliyah the obvious choice.

It was different in Babylon. This profoundly pagan city had become somewhat of a safe haven for Jews. They had settled, established communities, taken up occupations, ran businesses, married and started families. There was no urge to leave. Yet the God of Israel responded to faithful prayer, moved to fulfil His word and stirred the hearts of His people for aliyah.

A resonance of the exodus from Egypt came when Cyrus ordered the surrounding peoples to support the departing Jews with silver and gold, equipment, cattle, even a voluntary offering! Those living around the Jewish communities were being stirred to help them generously.

This aliyah continued for over a century as more Jews decided to uproot settled lives in Babylon and go. Their hearts were stirred and were willing. Governmental authorities had been stirred to endorse their aliyah, while the surrounding Gentiles were stirred to offer them provisions.

What an inspiration for us! Let's pray that in the growing modern-day aliyah the Almighty God of Israel will stir the hearts of governments and Jewish communities in the diaspora, and a multitude in the nations, to be willing participants in making or helping in a mighty aliyah of choice while time remains.

## 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).

Left: A young family who made aliyah from Perm in Russia.





MOLDOVA

PAVEL & LINA MOLDOVA LEADERS

in 2010 living in Baltsy, northern Moldova, with their son, Andrei, while distributing Hanukkah food parcels. They were unsure when we told them about making a new life in Israel because Mikhail's business was doing well and they were quite happy in Moldova. After thinking about it they decided to stay, at least for the time being.

We kept in touch with them and when Andrei turned 18 we encouraged Mikhail and Lyudmila to let him apply for the Naale Study Programme for young people in Israel. Andrei passed the entry tests and moved to Israel.

Missing him terribly, Mikhail and Lyudmila eventually resolved to follow him to Israel.

Completing his studies, Andrei returned to Moldova so the family could apply for aliyah together. We paid for the family's passports and in April took them and their luggage to Chisinau airport for their aliyah flight — fruit of patient work and prayer!



## THE RIGHT MOVE

gor and his young family lived in Tiraspol in Moldova's Transnistria region and decided a move to Nahariya in Israel was the right thing for their future.

Igor, his wife Galina and their 12-year-old daughter, Evelina, made aliyah in April. Considering the Covid travel restrictions, they had to overcome several obstacles while bringing their documents together, applying for aliyah and visiting Chisinau, Moldova's capital, for their consular appointments. They were extremely grateful to us for all the practical and financial support we gave them, especially paying for the urgent processing of their documents at the Visas and Registration Department and applying for passports.

Shortly after the family received their Israeli visas they were booked on a flight to Tel Aviv. They chose to settle in Nahariya in northern Israel and thanked us for the help we gave them. We wished them God's richest blessings for their future in the Land.



Top: Mikhail and Lyudmila making aliyah with Andrei.

Right: Igor, wife Galina and their daughter, Evelina.



to Israel from Kazakhstan and one from the neighbouring Central Asia republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Early on 10th April I met Lyudmila at the railway station in Almaty and took her to a hotel to stay overnight before her aliyah flight. Joining her on the plane was a family of six and one of five. They all needed Covid tests, which Ebenezer paid for. We also provided cars to the airport for the family of Gustav

We needed to hire a minibus for transporting 90 bags and suitcases and my son and son-in-law gladly helped me. Korean believers kindly drove six olim and their 18 bags in their five cars to the airport.

I had a blessed meeting with a pastor in Almaty whose congregation supports the aliyah ministry and helps olim in practical ways, including accommodation and transport to the airport.



ZHANSOLU KAZAKHSTAN LEADER





Top: Korean believers who helped transport olim to the airport

Left to right: Lyudmila R; Gustav, Lyubov and family; One of the families we helped.

## FLIGHT FROM THE URALS

n aliyah flight on 15th March saw 30 olim from different parts of the Urals region of Russia arrive in Tel Aviv to begin their new life in Israel.

Three of the families on the flight asked for their heartfelt thanks to be passed on to Ebenezer supporters for their part in the assistance given to them, including financial donations to meet various expenses in the aliyah process. One family had been initially booked on a flight in February but had to wait for a month until Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv was reopened. After spending two weeks in guarantine they settled in a kibbutz and were reunited with their relatives that had made aliyah earlier.

We were so happy to see Eugene and his family on the flight. It had taken them two years to gather all the necessary documents and they had to make several visits to the Israeli consul to make a successful application and finally get clearance to fly off to Israel.



## **URALS**



ANATOLY **URALS LEADER** 

Eugene and his family.





**SIBERIA** 

IRINA NOVOSIBIRSK TEAM

Top: Aaron and Galina with their daughter Elena.

Right: Maxim and brothers with grandparents.

t took several years but now three generations of Aaron's family are reunited!

Aaron and his wife, Galina, made aliyah from Russia in December last year to join their family. The story, however, had begun with their grandson, Maxim, several years before when he went to Israel on the Naale study programme.

Aaron's daughter, Elena (Maxim's mother), went to Israel several times to visit her son and liked the country. So when Maxim had finished school and entered medical college, Elena, her husband and their two younger sons decided that they also would make aliyah and so joined Maxim in 2017.

Meanwhile, Aaron and Galina missed their family very much. Besides Elena's

family they had other relatives in Israel – cousins, nephews and nieces whom they had visited several times. So when Aaron's elder sister, Khived, passed away in Russia, they decided to make aliyah too, reuniting three generations of their family. They are very grateful to Ebenezer for all the help and support they received.



## **RUSSIA**

## **HELPING SVETLANA**



**NIKOLAI** PYATIGORSK LEADER

Vetlana was a senior lady making aliyah on her own. She was joining her daughter and her family who had already gone to Israel and who were living in Haifa. Svetlana needed a bit of extra assistance with her baggage and transport, as she was not in the best of health, having been diagnosed with cancer sometime earlier, following her husband's death.

Konstantin, a volunteer from one of the local churches, joined us to take Svetlana and her luggage to the airport in Minvody for her aliyah flight on 22nd March. The route ran through several mountain passes and we were grateful to the Lord that we arrived safely and on time for Svetlana's flight.

Right: Konstantin and Svetlana at airport.

We were also privileged that month, together with the Coordinator of

the Hesed charity who had medicines to distribute, to deliver humanitarian aid to more than ten needy families that lived in remote villages.





Dmitry, his wife Elena and their young son, Ilya, lived in Lugansk in the eastern part of Ukraine. Elena was a bookkeeper and Dmitry a builder. We first met them in 2019 when they contacted us for help with preparing to make aliyah.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine had forced the family to leave everything behind and move west to relatives in the town of Zaporizhia. They had to start life again from scratch but thankfully the Jewish Hesed charity covered their rent as they were refugees and qualified for financial assistance.

Dmitry and Elena had long been aware of the opportunity to make aliyah but Elena's mother had always refused to go. Then Ilya developed a brain tumour and musculoskeletal disorders. The operation he faced in Ukraine would cost a lot of money so Dmitry and Elena considered again making aliyah and the possibility of treatment in Israel.

not be able to go with Elena. Even then they would have to wait a year, which was not good for Ilya's condition.

We prayed about this and God wonderfully answered: Ilya's tumour stopped growing! But then there was a problem with documents. The Ukrainian authorities would not issue Ilya with a passport because he had been born in territory that was now outside Ukraine and there was no relevant entry in the Ukrainian birth register. Again we brought the situation to the Lord and after filing a request with the Department of Human Rights in Kiev, and hiring a good lawyer, a Ukrainian birth certificate was issued to Ilya. This meant that the family could apply for their Israeli visas, which were issued without any further problems.

Elena said, "Your fund has helped in so many ways. Thank you so much! We wish your team good health!"

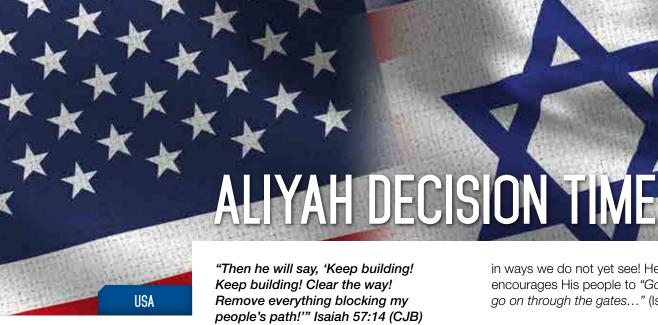


TATIANA & VLADIMIR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES UKRAINE



Top: Dmitry, Elena and their son, Ilya, with Vladimir.

Left: Dmitry and family with Israeli visas, ready to go.





JOHN PROSSER PRESIDENT & CEO. OPERATION EXODUS USA

e are witnessing an increasingly alarming display of wickedness and lawlessness world-wide, including the USA. It appears that governments are openly defying God and nations have seen an escalation of deep hatred and violent crime.

Anti-Semitism is becoming rampant in America and elsewhere on earth, making it urgent for this to be faced head on by all Jewish people living outside of Israel. It is something that they cannot avoid any longer! We pray that Jews in America will realise that now is the time to make aliyah. Israel is their inheritance and the safest place for them to live.

Our work in the USA will continue in the midst of resistance to it, for God commands us to be strong, courageous, and patient as we serve Him in these perilous times. Aliyah will not be stopped! Against all odds, the spiritual building of aliyah highways from our nation to Israel is growing. The Lord Himself is the master builder — He is building up and expanding the highways

in ways we do not yet see! He calls and encourages His people to "Go on through, go on through the gates..." (Isaiah 62:10)

In the first few months of 2021 Operation Exodus USA witnessed a 300 per cent increase in those seeking financial help to make aliyah. Much prayer is needed to comfort and encourage the olim. They face significant challenges throughout this process in both the USA and Israel. Their testimonies are a great encouragement to us all!



Justine is a courageous young woman who has chosen to identify with the nation and people of Israel. She told us that "I feel as if I am family with the people of the nation who

seem to inherently understand me and my family's history."

We join our prayers with all who are called to assist with aliyah from their nations! Let us continue to declare the power of God's prophetic Word, which removes all obstacles blocking the path of His people. To God be all the glory and praise!



Pro-Palestine, anti-Israel protesters hold a rally in New York on May 15 during fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

# NAALE ACADEMY IN LANGE STATE AND ALLYAH Since 2018 Ebenezer in Germany has been part of a fascinating project: helping the application process to CERMANY CERMANY

been part of a fascinating project: helping the application process to the Naale Academy in Israel. This past June we had five screening days where Jewish families from several nations came to the IPC, our joint office with the Jewish Agency in Berlin, hoping to join the programme, through which thousands of Jews have started a new life in Israel.

The Naale Academy offers Jewish children the opportunity to spend up to three years at high school in Israel for free. After graduation many stay in the country, join the army and study at the universities. Very often their parents, siblings and others of the family follow.

Asked how she sees this fascinating development, Julia Kritschmer, Naale representative in Europe, explains: "Currently we have 25 Naale schools in Israel. Among them are Russian-speaking, French-speaking, Portuguese-speaking and English-speaking schools. All the children learn Hebrew, of course. The individual support and furtherance of the children makes the Naale Academy unique. Many of

Naale has been a path to aliyah for many years. The numbers change from year to year, but on average over 80 per cent of children stay in Israel after graduation. Thousands of Jewish students and their families have made aliyah that way since the Academy was established 30 years ago.

"Without the help of Ebenezer teams from Germany I could not manage my work," says Julia. The "organising and conducting the screening days by motivated Ebenezer staff is the greatest help for me".

"Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolated cities inhabited." Isaiah 54:2-3

Let us continue to pray for such creative ways to immigrate to Israel. I'm sure we will be surprised what else God can do.



WINFRIED RUDLOFF NATIONAL COORDINATOR GERMANY





Top & Left: Student screening at the IPC in Berlin.





INDIA/ISRAEL

PETE STUCKEN CHAIRMAN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

"Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east ... Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth." Isaiah 43:5-6 (NASB)

his is a story of perseverance and a testimony of God's faithfulness. Almost 50 years ago a curious letter arrived in the office of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir. It came from Manipur in north-east India, from a community claiming descent from the tribe of Manasseh (Joseph's elder son) who, along with nine other tribes of Israel, had been scattered into exile by the Assyrians 2,700 years ago.

The letter was a bold request for recognition of their right to return to the land of their forefathers. Golda Meir did not respond but they persisted. Over the next two decades they sent each Israeli Prime Minister the same request. Finally a breakthrough: in 1997 they wrote to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and their letter was spotted by a resourceful young staffer, Michael Freund. This was a pivotal moment, launching intense research and eventually prompting the gates of Israel to swing open to this long-lost tribe.

Our partnership with Michael Freund and the organisation he subsequently founded, Shavei Israel ('Israel Returns'), has been a journey of prayer, perseverance, hard work, loyal friendship and joyous fulfilment. Over the last two decades 4,000 Bnei Menashe have made aliyah and we've played a part for many of them.

With the worsening COVID pandemic situation in South Asia threatening new hindrances, Michael Freund called for prayer and pleaded with the Israeli Absorption Minister for an accelerated Bnei Menashe aliyah schedule. Approval was given to bring forward the aliyah of 548 of them who were next in line.

Half of this group set off in May but on arrival in Delhi, the first leg of their journey, 36 olim tested COVID-positive. With nearly 80 family members they had to quarantine in that city while the remainder pressed on. On 31 May 160 relieved and thankful olim landed in Israel, kissing the ground in a profound embrace of their destiny. Soon after, with quarantine complete, the remaining 114 followed. So another 274 exiles from a long-forgotten community are planted in the Land of Israel – with many more to follow!





Photos courtesy of Shavei Israel

## LED BY HIS SPIRIT

Seeking and praying according to the Lord's will is one of the most powerful and exciting opportunities we have to participate in the fulfilment of God's promises. Romans 8:26 assures us that the Lord's Spirit intercedes for us, but what a privilege and encouragement that He also prays through us!

Elisha, the "man of God", was so attuned to the Lord's voice that "time and again" he was able to hear from God and disclose the secret battle plans of Israel's enemies, the Arameans. The accuracy of Elisha's information and Israel's success convinced the king of Aram that there was an informant in his ranks!

2 Kings chapter 6 continues with how Elisha and his servant overcame adversity through Spirit-led prayer. Their eyes were opened to the Lord's heavenly armies all around, and this insight of how God was operating not only gave them hope and strength but led to victory over those seeking to harm them. For Elisha there was no disconnection between the physical and the Lord's heavenly kingdom; the two were working alongside each other.

How encouraging that the Spirit of the Lord reveals to us exactly what we need to

be effective in prayer. Steve Lightle writes in his book 'Operation Exodus II', "God wants to trust His children with being the most informed people on the face of this earth ... He desires to let His power and authority be released in His children whom He can trust, to change the course of nations". Steve has first-hand experience of the Lord guiding in prayer through His Spirit and the course of economies and whole nations being changed as a result!

Through prayer the Lord has helped and guided Ebenezer teams and kept Jewish families safe on their aliyah journeys, miraculously revealed hidden documents required for them, led us to people in need and provided much-needed resources at just the right time – and so much more!

By remaining attuned to the Lord's voice and allowing Him to keep our spiritual eyes open, our prayers can be a beautiful offering that He can use in a truly remarkable way.

JOIN WITH US IN PRAYER! Contact prayer@ebenezer-ef.org to find out more.



ELIZABETH WEBB PRAYER SUPPORT TEAM

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Translation will be available for all conference videos shortly afterwards





ISRAEL

JEREMY SMITH NATIONAL COORDINATOR ISRAEL

ver 4,300 missiles were fired from Gaza at Israel during the recent outbreak of hostilities. For the first time the rockets had the capacity to be aimed at targets with accuracy—a game changer in the conflict. Thank God for Israel's defensive weaponry which stopped around 90 per cent of the missiles, although, for the first time, Ashkelon, Tel Aviv and other towns were hit numerous times. Also, 680 rockets were misfired and fell within Gaza's own border.

During this time protests started with violent gangs roaming the streets. Many Arab workers went on strike, causing many Jewish employers to look for Jewish employees. Tension was in the air as fires were started around highways and riots broke out. These kinds of riots have not



been seen since 2000. They led into what became known as the second intifada, the second uprising. We pray that this situation will not escalate.

In the Judean hills where I live, other areas around Jerusalem and the rest of the country, there have been multiple arson attacks. Just one of these fires caused the evacuation of over 450 homes.

The challenge for us as intercessors in Israel and around the world is how do we weigh these events with God's promises of peace and comfort?

The answer, I believe, is that God never promised us an easy time. In fact, in the Scriptures we are told that we have an enemy and the days are difficult or evil. If we prepare ourselves for the challenges of today and what lies ahead, we will be ready when they come. If we pretend they do not exist we will be deceived into a false peace and not ready to stand in the evil day.

Let us all earnestly seek the Lord and ask Him to show us how to pray effectively for Israel and our own nations. "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust ..." (Psalm 18:2).

Top: Hamas night attack on Ashdod.

Right: Anti-missile tactical system of the Israel Defense Forces.

Our vision is to be servants and intercessors of the Lord, to help the Jewish people return to the land of Israel from all the nations and to proclaim God's Kingdom purposes for their return. All articles in this publication Copyright © Ebenezer Emergency Fund International July 2021. Bible text is from the NKJV version unless otherwise stated. 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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