



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALIYAH

“THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD, “I WILL
GATHER YOU FROM THE PEOPLES AND
ASSEMBLE YOU OUT OF THE COUNTRIES
AMONG WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN
SCATTERED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE
LAND OF ISRAEL.” EZEKIEL 11:17

A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALIYAH!

INTERNATIONAL



PETE STUCKEN
CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL BOARD

'Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Though I had removed them far away among the nations and though I had scattered them among the countries, yet I was a sanctuary for them a little while in the countries where they had gone."' Therefore say, 'Thus says the LORD GOD, "I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."' Ezekiel 11:16-17 (NASB - emphasis added)

For 40 years Moses led the Israelites through the wilderness but it would be Joshua who would lead them into the Promised Land. As Moses prepared to commission Joshua before the Israelites crossed over the Jordan he gave an extraordinary prophecy: After taking possession of the Land a time would come when the Israelites would stray into disobedience. Consequently, they would be driven from the Land and banished into exile. Yet beyond that arduous period there would be restoration, a time of regathering (Deuteronomy 30:1-5).

The exiled people of Israel would suffer much before that final regathering. At various times in nations they were scattered to they endured discrimination, humiliation, forced conversions, expulsion and, for many, violent death. Ultimately the ancient scourge of anti-Semitism ushered in the unbridled horrors of the Holocaust.

Yet the Lord's compassion ensured that for some there was a sanctuary, a refuge, a safe haven for a season. The prophet Ezekiel gives an incredible insight: These sanctuaries were the Lord Himself providing a physical refuge: "yet I was a sanctuary for them **a little while in the countries where they had gone**" (Ezekiel 11:16, NASB). This sanctuary was not a permanent one, only **"for a little while"**. It was temporary because the Lord had promised them the land of Israel as their home and permanent abode.

We recognise and honour the sanctuaries which the Lord provided for His people. Across centuries of exile sanctuary came to His people through individuals, families, cities and nations.

A prominent example in the late Middle Ages was the Netherlands taking in Spanish and Portuguese Jews expelled by Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. The port city of

Top: An aliyah flight from France last summer.

Right: Shanghai Ark plaque and Seeking Sanctuary sculpture outside the Jewish Refugee Museum, Shanghai.

Far right: Modern-day aliyah — family members from Novosibirsk moving to Israel.



Amsterdam became a haven for a large and prosperous Jewish community over several centuries.

In the 1930s the impending threat of Nazism prompted many European Jews to seek shelter outside Europe, in any nation that would take them in. Tragically, most doors were closed to those trying to escape. An exception was the Chinese port city of Shanghai which was ready to accept Jewish refugees. Some 20,000 of them made the long journey to the Far East.

For a short time Shanghai was host to a secure and bustling Jewish community. When World War II broke out in 1939 more had taken refuge in Shanghai than in any other city on earth. They remained safe there even through the subsequent Japanese occupation. Most left after the end of the war, some for Australia, but from 1948 onwards, the majority made *aliyah* to Israel. Today Shanghai commemorates this historic period at the aptly named former Jewish quarter, 'the Ark'.

Fifty years earlier, on another continent, the world had seen a dramatic example of a 'nation sanctuary'. From the early 1880s onward, the USA received 2.5 million Jews from eastern Europe in just 45 years. These new arrivals scarcely comprehended the way they had slipped out from the jaws of disaster. America, for a little while, became by far the biggest sanctuary in the long history of the Jewish people.

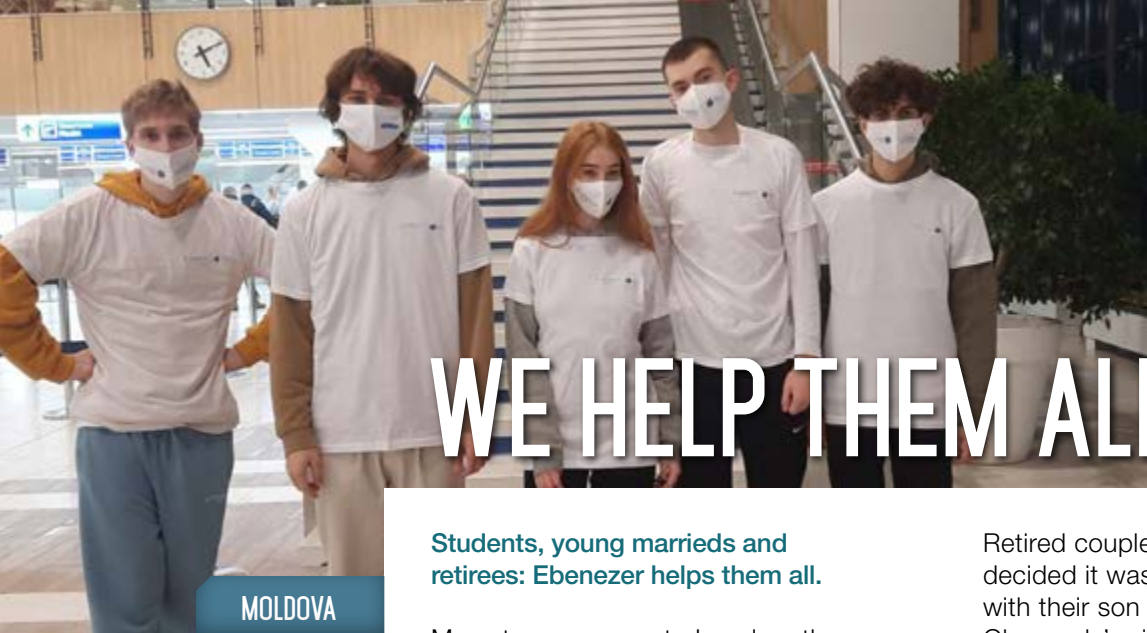
Sabbath eve of 14th May 1948 ushered in a profoundly significant shift. That afternoon an expectant hush swept across Israel. At 4 pm David Ben Gurion rose to his feet in front of the assembled delegates in the Tel Aviv Museum to proclaim Israel's Declaration of Independence. A prophetic destiny was being fulfilled. Everything had now changed for the Jews in the Diaspora.

Ancient Israel had confirmed itself a nation in its ancient land, a national home for Jews from all over the world. Despite many obstructions the gates for *aliyah* would now swing open. No longer would there be a need

for a 'sanctuary for a little while'; this was now history. The very next words of the prophet confirm the shift: *"Therefore say, 'Thus says the LORD GOD, "I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel!"'"* (Ezekiel 11:17, NASB). On 14 May 1948 the Land was again confirmed theirs, declared in the sight of all the nations. The time for sanctuaries was over. Instead, the time now was for coming home to Israel. The time now was for *aliyah*!

We thank the Lord profoundly for the way He has, in His compassion and wisdom, provided diverse sanctuaries for the Jewish people through their many centuries of exile. Now our prayer is quite specific: that those in the Diaspora might be drawn by cords of loving-kindness from sanctuaries to which they might still be attached, that their hearts would turn toward Zion and that we would be as ready and willing as ever to help them in that journey of destiny.





MOLDOVA



PAVEL & LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS

Top: Sela study students
with Lev and Victoria.
Right: Ghennady and Nina.

Students, young marrieds and retirees: Ebenezer helps them all.

Many teenagers go to Israel on the Naale or Sela study programmes and often decide to stay there for good. Last September we helped a young girl join the Naale programme and in October a group of five including her brother on the Sela course.

A young married couple, Lev and Victoria went to Israel through the First in the Homeland programme, which gives young couples and families a home on a kibbutz. We helped them with their consular appointment in Odessa, Ukraine, as the Israeli Consul was going to be late coming to Chisinau in Moldova and they would have missed the start of the programme.

Retired couple Ghennady and Nina decided it was time for them to reunite with their son and his family in Israel. Ghennady's sister and her own family made *aliyah* some time ago. We helped them gather their documents and passports and took them to the airport.



URALS

MEETING SPECIAL NEEDS



ANATOLY
URALS LEADER

We gave thanks to the Lord that 125 olim, including 38 young people joining study programmes, went to Israel from the Urals region last September and October.

There were flights from all the major cities including Yekaterinburg, Chelyabinsk and Perm. Many brothers from churches helped load and unload luggage and drove cars and minibuses to the airports. A brother and I went to Chelyabinsk to take a wheelchair-bound Jewish man to the airport with his luggage.

Another family from Chelyabinsk with special needs comprised a 92-year-old woman in a wheelchair, her daughter and a son-in-law who had cancer. They were very touched by our team's attentive assistance.

We have been assisting a grandmother, Faina, and her orphan granddaughter, Maria (13). She also suffers from cancer. We have been providing them with medicines and stationery for Maria's schooling. We have great hopes that Maria will apply for one of the Israel study programmes. Please pray for them.



Faina with her
granddaughter Maria.

ORTHODOX FAMILY'S ALIYAH

Orthodox Jews rarely communicate with Christians on any level but one family asked Ebenezer for help and then expressed their sincere thanks.

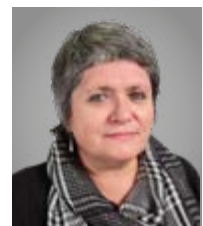
Ebenezer has helped many tens of thousands of Jewish people to immigrate to Israel over the years. Many of them are very open to engage with Christians, but Orthodox Jews are usually reluctant to have anything to do with us. It was therefore a great surprise to receive a request from one large family of ten people who had come to Russia from Canada seven years ago. Their mission had been to strengthen and minister to the Russian Orthodox Jewish community. They generally disapprove of Jews making *aliyah* as in their opinion only Messiah Himself is able to establish a true Jewish State in Zion for His people.

Nevertheless this large family decided that their future lay in Israel and found

the courage to ask Ebenezer for help in making *aliyah*. They had a large amount of luggage, 30 bags in all, and we did our best to provide the required number of vehicles to transport them to the airport for their morning flight to Tel Aviv. Thankfully, several brothers from a local church in Moscow willingly gave their time to carry their bags and drive the vehicles from the Jewish Religious Centre where they had been living for seven years to Domodedovo Airport. Once there, they even moved them to the correct check-in desk.

To our amazement, the father, a rabbi, agreed to give us a short interview before they moved through to the departure lounge. He thanked Ebenezer wholeheartedly for the practical help and care they had received from us and shared his motives for leaving Russia and making *aliyah*. We wish them every blessing as they settle in the Land.

RUSSIA



ELYA VASUKOVA
MOSCOW BASE LEADER



Our team helping with the family's luggage.

To see a video about this story, please visit the Ebenezer Operation Exodus **YouTube** channel.



MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

UZBEKISTAN



ZHANNA
UZBEKISTAN LEADER

Last October 79 olim from Uzbekistan were provided with transport to the airport for aliyah flights. But to one family's dismay they were stopped in their tracks when they reached the check-in desk.

In a joint operation between Ebenezer, Ezra Fund and a local congregation, the 79 olim set off for the airport in Tashkent to begin new lives in Israel. Normally things go fairly smoothly, but the problem this family encountered could have wrecked their *aliyah* journey. In the midst of it all, however, God intervened in a remarkable way and the family were able to board their flight on time!

The family, a grandmother, daughter and two granddaughters, were in the airport departure hall proceeding to check-in and passport control. We were watching all the olim go through when the daughter, Zarina, came up to us sobbing saying that her mother had gone through without a problem but that she and her daughters had been stopped because they didn't have two required stamps in the girls' passports.

They had to have one stamp showing that they were accompanied by their

mother and another showing that they had their estranged father's permission to emigrate. By this time the whole family was weeping in distress.

The only answer, they were told, was to go immediately to the nearest passport office in Tashkent for the required stamps. I immediately took Zarina outside for a taxi, leaving the grandmother and the girls anxiously waiting in the departure hall. It was 1:30pm and I knew the Passport Office had a lunch break until 2:00pm. I had peace that all would be well because I knew that it was God's will for this family to go to Israel. In the taxi I prayed aloud that God would open the way for Zarina's family to catch their flight on time. Even the taxi driver said "Amen."

We got to the Passport Office at exactly 2:00pm and thankfully the head of the office had arrived back. I waited in the corridor while Zarina went in and explained their



Zarina with
her two daughters
and mother.



Photo - Marina Rich - Shutterstock

predicament. After a lengthy time I lost patience because she still had not returned, so I opened the door a fraction to see what was going on. I caught a glimpse of Zarina's strained expression and the stern face of the Passport Office official. Zarina was explaining repeatedly their situation but to no avail; the official simply would not change his mind.

Something in me took control and I went in, sat down and explained that we did not blame him for what had happened with the document stamps, but he was the only one who could rectify the situation in time for Zarina and her family to catch the flight in an hour's time. The official explained that he needed notarised permission from the girls' father to emigrate.

What I said next was quite unexpected, even to my own ears. Looking straight



into his eyes I said, "Their father does not need them...He is not interested in his daughters' lives...God will bless you and your family if you allow them to go to Israel." As I looked at him it seemed that the Holy Spirit spoke to his heart, because he immediately told a colleague to stamp the girls' passports. Then he signed them.

We rushed back to the airport in the taxi, which had been waiting for us, and got there just in time! The grandmother, Zarina and the girls boarded the plane and flew to Tel Aviv. The odds may be stacked against us sometimes but when God wants something done He moves mountains. We give Him all the glory!

Left: Zhanna (centre) with a family before departure to Israel.

DORA'S HEARTACHE

Dora is 92 and every year on Victory Day (Russia's marking of the end of World War II) the memories of what she and her family suffered during the Holocaust years come flooding back.

Dora was 12 when the war broke out. Neighbours suddenly turned against them and handed them over to the Nazis. Taken to a ghetto, they were without enough food, clothing, warmth and shelter. One after another Dora's brothers and sisters died of hunger and sickness. Then her father did not return from forced labour. It broke her mother's heart and she faded away and died of grief and hunger. Sympathetic people hid her under her mother's body to allow her to escape the ghetto and survive the war.

Every spring we take gifts to Holocaust survivors on Victory Day in Ukraine. Moved by this care and attention last year, Dora gave us two grivnas (coins), saying: "This is my *tsdaka* (righteous deed), a contribution for all your wonderful work. Thank you so much."



UKRAINE



YANYA
UKRAINE TEAM

| Dora receiving her gift.

RECORD YEAR FOR US ALIYAH

USA



JOHN PROSSER
PRESIDENT/CEO,
OPERATION EXODUS USA

Last year brought much chaos and uncertainty to our daily lives in very dangerous ways. An insidious, demonic agenda has been unleashed against our Judeo-Christian values — the very foundation our nation was built upon.

Our trust and faith are anchored firmly on God's redemptive plan for the world and His promises to restore Israel. Operation Exodus USA stands on the rock-solid foundation of God's prophetic Word! He has called us to hear His Word and to obey Him in all we do for *aliyah*. Obedience to the Lord guarantees that we are wise builders (Matthew 7:24-27).

Last year, OE USA assisted almost 700 olim. Jewish Agency statistics show *aliyah* from the USA was up by 42 per cent at the end of October 2021 compared with October 2020.

I was encouraged by a headline in *Haaretz*, an Israeli newspaper, declaring: **Ultra-Orthodox Aliyah to Israel is Breaking Records** because for decades those in the Diaspora rejected the notion of immigrating to Israel. No more. Now ultra-Orthodox

American Jews see themselves as "the next great frontier in *aliyah*" and are moving to Israel in increasing numbers.

The article states that many rabbis were in the process of making *aliyah*. Very large numbers of families are on their way to join other families already in the Land. One rabbi stated, "*Jews don't feel as comfortable as they once did in America.*" This is an incredible breakthrough in Jewish hearts in ultra-Orthodox communities along America's east coast. A mighty wave of *aliyah* is building from our nation!

We value your prayer support for the *aliyah* of American Jewry. May God protect His people in the Diaspora and make provision for the *aliyah* work from every nation. Here is a testimony of a lovely family now in the Land:

"We believe that it is a commandment to live in the land of Israel if we are able. We want our children to experience living fully as Jews in the land that G-d gave us and commanded that we live in. We are inspired to keep our family together."

In God we trust!



*An American Jewish family – a husband and wife proudly standing with their four sons before making *aliyah*.*

PRAYER BEARING FRUIT IN AMERICAS

We are grateful to our Lord for the answer he has given us through daily prayer. The Word of the Lord in Proverbs 13: 4 says: “The soul of the diligent man will prosper.” For more than a year our National Coordinators in Latin America, Canada and the USA have been meeting online to pray. We have been praying daily for the Church’s response to our duty in aliyah and for the response in Jewish communities.

Our Father has answered our prayers with an increase in the number of *olim* in Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Canada and recently from Panama. In the midst of travel restrictions through Covid and strong anti-Semitism (especially apparent in Chile), God has provided for each health check and accommodation assistance because of flight cancellations in South America.

Throughout nearly all of 2021 we have experienced an increase in flights in the USA, where there are now five airports

authorised to fly to Israel, compared to previously when flights only left from New York and Newark. This is just one of many answers to us praying together.

In South America, the *olim* who have needed assistance from such distant places as the interior of the Amazon in Brazil or from Chile, have only been able to receive it from abroad. When documents have required face-to-face registration at embassies, God has provided for them, enabling those immigrating to arrive on time for their flight departures. This past August we saw the number of *olim* exceed those who were helped to make *aliyah* in 2020.

Prayer has borne fruit in another way: the strengthening of relations with embassies. Such is the case in Guatemala, Honduras and most recently in Ecuador, where our National Coordinator presented welcome proposals for assistance in agriculture, resulting in the building up of trust with embassy staff. The prayer of the just can do much!

BRAZIL



ENRIQUE PORRAS
REGIONAL COORDINATOR
AMERICAS

KEY WORDS

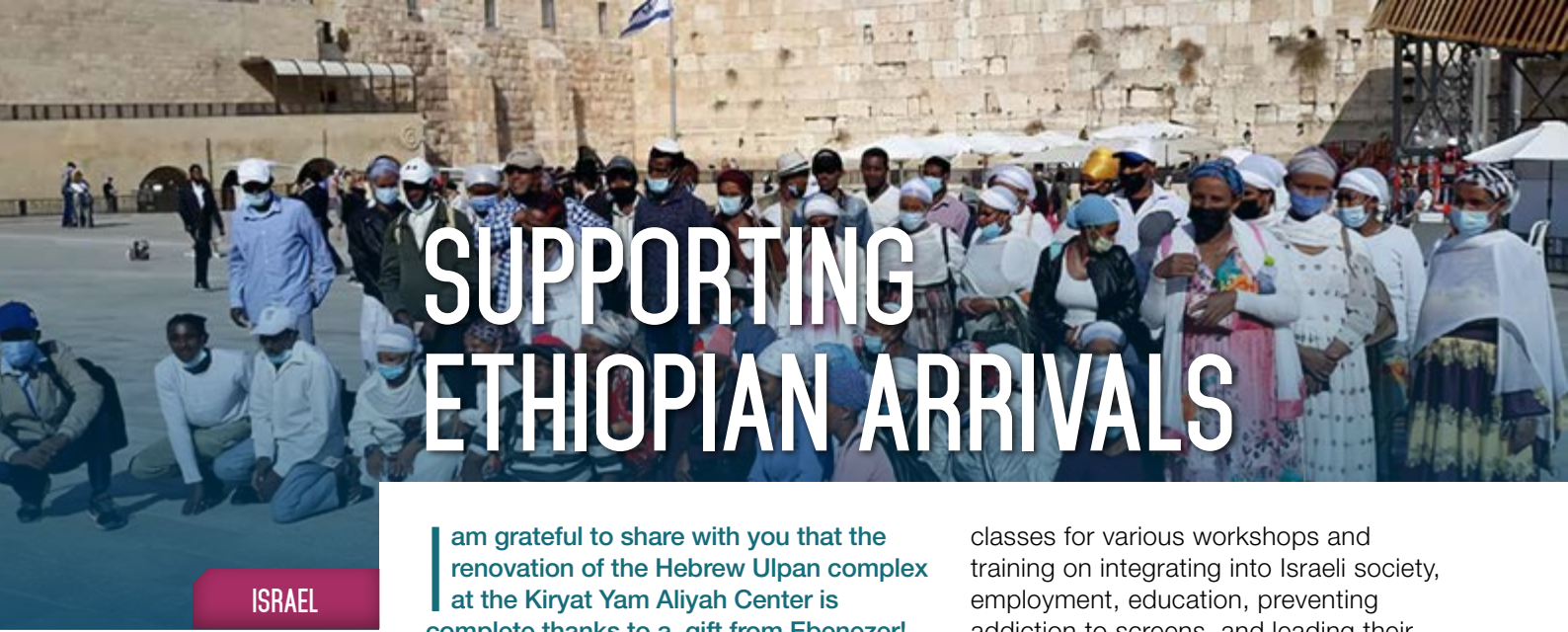
Aliyah is the word for the immigration of Jewish people from the Diaspora to the Land of Israel. The word in Hebrew means ascent and is defined as ‘going up’ – progressing towards Jerusalem.

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).

A family making aliyah from Brazil.





SUPPORTING ETHIOPIAN ARRIVALS

ISRAEL



DANIELLE MOR
DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN
FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

I am grateful to share with you that the renovation of the Hebrew Ulpan complex at the Kiryat Yam Aliyah Center is complete thanks to a gift from Ebenezer!

Through your contribution the eight classrooms all have new noise-insulated doors, new acoustic ceilings and a fresh layer of paint, which means that the facility can serve *olim* for many years to come. The renovation also included provision of three rooms for the use of teachers and staff. The Jewish Agency provided the remainder of the funds on top of Ebenezer's gift.

The centre is large, serving nearly 170 new *olim* each day from Ethiopia and around 150 from many countries around the world. All of those from Ethiopia live at the centre while some of the *olim* from other lands live in the city and travel to it for the various activities and for support from the staff.

While in the morning hours the classrooms serve the adult *olim*, in the afternoons they serve the children of the centre who come to attend educational programmes as well as various extracurricular activities. In the evening, the adults return to the

classes for various workshops and training on integrating into Israeli society, employment, education, preventing addiction to screens, and leading their families in confidence and more.

We were also proud to offer two courses in computer literacy in the classrooms, offered to both young adults and older adults.

The centre is currently full, with some 340 *olim* which comprise 80 households. There are 150 children which means the centre is bustling with life and activity.

The process of welcoming the families during Covid was challenging. Coupled with the fact that the majority of the families from Ethiopia arrived within a three-month period, means it has been a time of great intensity. We even had a special ceremony there for the birth of a baby boy born at the centre just a few weeks after his parents made *aliyah*!

Truly, new life, new beginnings!
Thank you for this much
needed support.

Special ceremony for the baby boy born at Kiryat Yam.
New *olim* children starting first grade with their parents and friends.



BHUTAN: A CHURCH CALLED ALIYAH

This is a story of the birth of a house church called Aliyah Church.

Prayer for Jewish people and Israel began in Bhutan long ago. My wife, Reeta, and I were passionate intercessors for Israel. God brought Jack and his late wife, Ann, to us when they ministered to Himalayan youth in the state of Sikkim and Darjeeling, West Bengal, India. This helped us to learn more about God's plan for the Jews and the role of churches in praying for them.

The Ebenezer-sponsored Engage Tour to Israel in July 2012 was an eye-opening experience for me, a historic moment both for myself and for the nation of Bhutan. I will never forget the prayers I prayed leaning against the Western Wall, standing alongside Jewish people.

My participation in several conferences has always added to my learning and my passion to pray more for Jewish people, aliyah and Israel. Thank you, Ebenezer, for all the opportunities given to me!

After much prayer, in 2019, we were able to host a conference in Thimphu, Bhutan's capital. Though we did not know it, at the time there was a couple who were called and commissioned to start a house

church in Thimphu. They attended our conference and it was there when Abe and Deepa from India taught us about Jewish people, aliyah and Israel, that the couple heard the word *aliyah* for the first time.

After much fasting and prayer, plus confirmation from several other prayer partners, this couple decided to name their newly-planted fellowship Aliyah Church. We are thrilled about its birth and look forward to becoming a key instrument in teaching other churches about the Jews, Israel and what *aliyah* means. Aliyah Church is the Lord's doing!

Please pray:

- ✓ For more churches to be open to hear and learn about God's plan for the Jewish people.
- ✓ For those churches to then have a passion to pray more for Jewish people, *aliyah* and Israel.



BHUTAN



MONIE
EBENEZER REPRESENTATIVE,
BHUTAN

Top: Abe preaching in Thimphu at the 2019 conference where the Aliyah Church was birthed.



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ALIYAH NEWS



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OPERATION EXODUS

EBENEZER EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

Budapest
Hungary



20-23
October 2022



More details
coming soon...

A SHABBAT MOMENT OF UNITY

"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done." Genesis 2:2

ISRAEL



COLIN ROSS
ISRAEL TEAM

It was Friday evening at Haifa House, the residence for new olim, which Ebenezer has opened in Israel's third largest city. I was staying for a few days to help cover for the house managers, Markus and Rahel, as they took time off for holiday with their family. My wife, Rosie, had travelled from Ashkelon to be with me for a short time and I had prepared some dinner for us both.

The food was cooking and the table was laid with a loaf of *challah* (traditional Shabbat bread), wine and candles to welcome the beginning of Shabbat as we customarily do within our family. What I had forgotten to buy was a box of matches to light the candles.

I went upstairs to borrow some matches from the residents' kitchen. Andrey was sitting over a meal he'd prepared, his

computer was open in front of him. Diego had just come in too, while Alex was busying herself over the stove getting her meal ready. None of my Russian, Spanish or Portuguese are at the level of "Does anyone have a box of matches, please?" but I was hopeful that with a combination of Hebrew, English and sign language, I wouldn't have too much difficulty getting my message across.

Alex left the kitchen, returning a few moments later with a lighter and two small candles. Rather than hand them to me she put the candles on a plate and, eager to light them, covered her eyes with her hand and proceeded to pray the traditional Hebrew prayer, "Blessed art Thou, o L-rd our God, King of the universe, who commanded us to kindle the Shabbat lights".

"Shabbat Shalom!" Alex gave me a joyful, sisterly hug, then Diego, then Andrey.

Warmed, loosened and infected by Alex's enthusiasm, we three guys greeted one another, smiling, enjoying the moment of unity with each other and with the people of Israel.

Slightly saddened that the moment was over, I took the offered lighter, to celebrate the Shabbat with Rosie downstairs.



Colin and his wife, Rosie, enjoying Shabbat.

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.ebenezer-oe.org



Ebenezer Operation Exodus Asia Pacific
15 Park Rd, Seven Hills
NSW 2147, Australia
Phone: +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
ebenezernz@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
9128002, Jerusalem, Israel
+972 2 624 3905
office@ebenezer.org.il
www.ebenezer.org.il



Operation Exodus Canada
P O Box 51085 Milton Central PO
Milton, ON L9T 2P2
Canada
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



Ebenezer Operation Exodus South Africa
PO Box 61887, Vaalpark,
1948 South Africa
Phone: +27 16 971 1766
southafrica@ebenezer-ef.org
www.ebenezer-oe.org

