





INTERNATIONAL

PETE STUCKEN CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL BOARD

ar in Europe. The unthinkable became a chilling reality on 24th February this year. Not for 77 years has Europe seen conflict on this scale. As Ukrainian cities were subjected to both ground attack and aerial bombardment, a massive humanitarian crisis unfolded.

With very little warning, Ebenezer found itself in the midst of it all. Our beginnings in 1991 were as an Emergency Fund, dealing with a very different kind of crisis: a massive stream of olim from Russia and Ukraine, formerly forced to stay behind the Iron Curtain, now free to make aliyah. For three decades we've followed our calling in serving aliyah, helping the exiles home to Israel: on ships from Odessa then later on flights from major cities in Russia and Ukraine. Olim streamed to Israel in great numbers. One and a quarter million came from the "land of the north", the former Soviet Union. Despite huge challenges, aliyah was a comparatively orderly process.

Well over half of the Jewish populations living in the "land of the north", the regions to the north of Israel, made aliyah in the three decades following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Yet while they responded to the call many others remained behind.

Resonating through these years was Jeremiah's prophecy concerning a change of season: "Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen," declares the LORD, "and they will fish for them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks" (Jeremiah 16:16, NASB).

The Lord is sovereign and moves in times and seasons; His purpose is unshakeable. Are we seeing the hunters being let loose in Ukraine?

The prophet Zechariah's words, written two and a half thousand years ago, sounding a future call to the Lord's covenant people, ring out with renewed emphasis today: ""Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the LORD, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the LORD' (Zechariah 2:6, NASB).

The time to flee is now. The time of the hunters brings urgency, danger and hardship. For us, it calls for a very different type of response, with readiness the key.

Ukraine has borders with Russia, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. The largest influx of refugees





Top: Refugees and olim escaping Ukraine in the early days of the conflict.

Left and right: Ukrainian Jews making aliyah from Moldova.



has been into Poland, and this quickly became the primary focus of our emergency response. Prepared and equipped by contingency planning and prayer invested over years, we sprung into action.

Within hours of the crisis unfolding our first-responder volunteer team arrived at the Polish border to scout the land, pray and find a site for a temporary base in proximity to the border crossings. Straight away we saw the Lord provide: a small hotel, ideally located and accommodating up to 50 people. As Polish churches and volunteers stood readv to help, Ebenezer teams with vans and supplies began to arrive. Our French teams and their vehicles were the first on the scene, soon joined by others from the Netherlands and Germany. Support streamed in from the nations, material and financial. Additional vans could be borrowed or bought to help collect Jewish refugees from the border crossings. Day and night they were brought to our base as a transit stop for rest and recuperation. Faces filled with emotion and tears flowed at the sight of a bed and a hot meal.

Mostly Jewish families came mixed in amongst the tide of people pressing towards the border exits, mainly women, children and the elderly, the men needing to remain to help defend Ukraine. Israeli medical teams at the border crossings referred needy refugees to us. From rabbis across Europe and as far afield as the USA came urgent pleas to locate and rescue relatives or individuals known to be in danger. At the same time generous expressions of gratitude arrived in the form of humanitarian supplies.

Our Ukraine team worked courageously and tirelessly around the clock, fielding a stream of anxious calls for assistance each day. Roads became dangerous, fuel scarce, border crossings clogged with those seeking to cross waiting long hours in the cold.

Special operations rescued Jewish community groups in active war zones, snatching them out under missile and



artillery attack. The courage and ingenuity of the drivers was admirable. The Lord gave His protection. Generous gifts poured in for these vital missions.

In Moldova our team has been active day and night in assisting Jewish refugees, particularly with transport. Dedicated *aliyah* flights departed from Chisinau to Tel Aviv even with Moldovan airspace closed to normal air traffic. The Lord makes a way for His people!

Zechariah's exhortation to "flee from the land of the north" is also resounding among remaining Jewish communities in Russia. Economic sanctions and the uncertainties of the future have brought a rise in the number of Jewish people seeking to make aliyah. No matter where they've been scattered, the faithful God of Israel is bringing His people home. Our teams in Russia will be fully stretched and working under difficult conditions in the coming months.

Let's continue to pray for aliyah highways to be open for both Russian and Ukrainian Jews; for temporary sanctuaries provided for the Jewish refugees in the nations to be exactly that: **only temporary sanctuaries**. May they see the signposts to Zion and press on to the land of Israel!

Left: Our base in Poland, where Jewish families can relax and celebrate Shabbat whilst they are with us.

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).





UKRAINE/POLAND

JOHANNES BARTHEL REGIONAL COORDINATOR

us an exceptional measure of grace. He has helped us to not only see from far away what is happening in Ukraine but be involved in the largest aliyah movement this century!

Our teams in war-torn Ukraine are helping olim with transport, papers and even organising emergency evacuations from within war zones. While some of their family members were able to re-settle in Germany, our core team of Vadim, Yanya, Vladimir and Victor, are willing to help as many Jewish repatriates as possible.

Besides operations in Ukraine, we have set up a base in Poland. A hotel and an additional house have room for over 60 people. We send teams daily to border crossings to meet olim. Some contact us before they arrive in Poland, so we know they are on their way, but most arrive not knowing there is a bed and a warm meal ready for them. New clothes and basic necessities await those who need them at our hotel.

driver and one of our female Ukrainian workers, Tanya or Kate, are ready to help *olim* after crossing the border. We are also now placing teams on the Ukrainian side of the border and providing basic items like food and blankets.

We are helping some olim to cross the border in our minivans, especially the elderly and those with health problems, saving them 15-20 hours of waiting at the border crossings. Once they arrive at our Poland base, we help them organise their next steps.

Several Holocaust survivors have been our guests there, including one who arrived on his 90th birthday! No doubt he had a very special party with other olim and an Ebenezer team with helpers from Poland, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

We have distributed van-loads of humanitarian aid: 2,000 pairs of shoes, thousands of nappies and hygiene products, hundreds of suitcases as







Top: A sea of humanity crossing the Ukraine-Polish border.

Bombed building and burnt out military vehicle.

Husband and wife Holocaust survivors who our teams in Ukraine and Poland have assisted to make aliyah.



well as large amounts of clothing to those awaiting their documents so they can fly to Israel.

We also helped our team with a microwave, a mobile washing machine and food packages. This has all been made possible through generous financial support and volunteers giving their time. It provided the *olim* with hope, showing them that there are people who care.

We have started sponsoring *aliyah* group flights. The first flight took 107 *olim* from Warsaw to Tel Aviv on the 29th March.

Our work in Poland has been in close partnership with the other organisations and on some days our hotel has turned into a meeting place for volunteers and leaders from different Jewish and Christian groups helping *olim*. Doctors from Israel, who have a large tent at the border, regularly send us Jewish people. The Jewish Agency also has staff on the ground and directs people who need accommodation to us.







Together with the Ezra organisation, we have made a larger bus available to help people come to Warsaw.

Many of our volunteers at our Polish base came without any *aliyah* ministry experience and we've been training them on the job. It is amazing to see how motivated they are to serve as part of an international team speaking different languages. The richness of our Ebenezer family is a daily blessing and we can only thank God. So far **He** has helped us!



Left: Olim leaving our base in Poland on the next stage of their journey.

STOP PRESS (April)

Four hundred buses from Ukraine brought Jews to neighbouring countries, including Poland, Hungary and Moldova. There were 65 flights bringing Ukrainian Jews to Israel, of which 10,000 new immigrants have so far arrived in Israel as part of "Operation Immigrants Come Home". Jewish Agency acting chairman Yaakov Hagoel said, "This is the biggest rescue operation in 30 years."

4,000 olim from Ukraine and bordering countries have chosen to stay in hotels rented by the Aliyah and Integration Ministry.

Please pray the Lord will call them home to Israel and that He would leave none behind. Ezekiel 39:28

Young person and Holocaust survivor on one of many coaches heading to the Polish border.

Nataliya (wife of Vadim) helping a Holocaust survivor in Ukraine before she too left for Poland with her young sons.

A young mum and her boy arriving in Israel on a sponsored Ebenezer flight from Poland. See back page for more on this story.

To watch more films visit our Ebenezer Operation Exodus YouTube channel or scan the QR Code.







MOLDOVA

PAVEL AND LINA MOLDOVA LEADERS

"For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12

Ithough it is difficult to imagine someone fleeing from hostilities being "led out with joy and peace", we believe that through care and attention, words of encouragement and practical help provided by our teams, Jewish refugees from neighbouring Ukraine who chose to go to Israel via Moldova, have been comforted and uplifted by the Lord, as He remains faithful to every promise to the Jewish people.

With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, thousands of Ukrainian nationals, including hundreds of Jews and their families, began to flock daily to Moldova. The Jewish community in Chisinau (the capital), local Jewish organisations, international Jewish charities, and Christian ministries, including Ebenezer, united in their efforts to provide care for Ukrainian Jewish families.

Through these joint efforts and hard work, all the Jewish refugees have been provided with

hot meals, and transport from the border crossing to accommodation. Afterwards, they are helped from their hotels or holiday centres in Chisinau or other places to go to the Israeli consulate in the capital and finally go to the airport to fly to Tel Aviv.

As I write, more than a month into the war, the whole system appears to be working smoothly, with an impressive level of cooperation between Jewish organisations and Christian ministries. The five Consuls from Israel are now able to process 100 families a day, rather than 60 previously.

By 8th April there were 23 *aliyah* flights from Chisinau to Ben Gurion, taking more than 2,800 *olim*, including a number of families from Moldova, home to Israel from our country since the start of the Ukraine conflict.

Ebenezer has been able not only to transport the families in our ministry vehicle but also to cover the costs of hiring coaches for larger groups of *olim*.

Due to the fact that men aged 18-60 are not allowed to leave Ukraine, most of those arriving in Moldova are women





Left: Inesa and her family in Israel.

Right: Pavel with Tatiana.



with children and elderly people, many of them with physical disabilities and in need of special care and assistance. One day, 14 people arrived at the Israeli Consulate in wheelchairs.

Inesa fled from Dnepropetrovsk with her 12-year-old son and disabled parents, her mother suffering from bad arthrosis (similar to arthritis) and unable to move on her own. Inesa's husband had to stay behind. The family needed extra help and comfort, as Inesa felt physically and emotionally exhausted after a tedious and debilitating 12-hour bus journey. We were so happy to minister to this dear family by transporting them to the hotel, to the Israeli Consulate, and to the airport for their flight to Israel.

They were deeply touched by our care and assistance. They now live in a northern Israel town and look forward to being reunited with Inesa's husband. Shlomit, a member of our team in Jerusalem, has visited Inesa's family and helped them by providing food vouchers.

Tatiana, who fled from Nikolaev, Odessa region, was so happy to learn that she would be assisted by an Ebenezer team,

as she had been well aware of our work in Ukraine and knew that, as she put it, "we can be trusted". Ebenezer helped her brother return home to Israel about ten years ago, and she looked forward to being reunited with him there.

Alongside Jewish refugees from Ukraine, there have been olim from Moldova, who also needed our help and support. Among them, we had the privilege of assisting Valeria, her son Roman and his own family to make aliyah. Valeria and Roman have to use wheelchairs. Roman has had a physical disability since his early childhood and is now almost unable to walk unaided, as his condition continues to deteriorate. We have known Valeria and Roman for more than 20 years and were so happy to help them with their preparations for aliyah, including with documents, and finally to take them to the airport for their flight to Israel. They have settled in Haifa.

While assisting such a great number of olim practically, we keep praying for their smooth and successful absorption in Israel. May the Lord plant them firmly in the Land, so that they will never be uprooted again!





Left: Valeria, her son Roman and his family.

Right: another family on their way.





GERMANY

WINFRIED RUDLOFF NATIONAL COORDINATOR. **GERMANY**

office with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in Berlin for five years. During this time we have not only daily worked together in a spirit of trust but also become friends as aliyah from Germany has been carried out. Now the Ukrainian crisis is presenting us with new challenges.

Within a few days, 10,000 refugees had arrived in Berlin from Ukraine. Mainly elderly people, women and children, so many were traumatised, having lost everything and separated from their fathers and brothers. Among them were Jewish families. At first, we all felt overwhelmed but went on to help many of these dear people. In this, Ebenezer and JAFI complemented each other well.

Here are just a few examples of what your prayers are accomplishing and how God is fulfilling His Word today:

Ebenezer provided hotel accommodation for an elderly wheelchair-bound Jewish gentleman and his wife in a hotel. Then JAFI moved them to an assisted Jewish facility in Berlin to fully recover from their ordeal before making aliyah.

Another elderly Jewish couple from Ukraine came to Berlin via Poland, Bombed out

two small bags. Ebenezer rented an apartment for them before they went to stay with members of a church, very happy that Christians were supporting them in their hour of greatest need.

The Christ Church in Berlin turned its church hall into emergency accommodation for up to 30 refugees; food was cooked daily in the community centre. The congregation prayed, donated money and provided food and clothes.

A family with three children was stranded in the Frankfurt area. Their aliyah papers were complete, but no aliyah flight was in sight. JAFI called us and we were able to fund a flight for them the next day.

Some of the women and children of our Ebenezer co-workers from Ukraine were evacuated from particularly dangerous areas to Germany. A Christian family from northern Germany lovingly took them in.

Teams from four churches in eastern Germany are now at the Polish-Ukrainian border, serving at the Ebenezer Base. These Christians take time off, pray regularly and sometimes even donate to the current work.





Top: Christ Church in Berlin provides much-needed accommodation for refugees.

From left to right: Doreen (volunteer) with Nataliya (Ukraine, wife of Vadim) and Judith at the Berlin office.

> Right: Ukraine family being looked after and supported by our Berlin office team.





God knows what is ahead. I believe the world, including America, will continue to see unexpected and sudden eruptions of catastrophic events. I believe the ongoing Ukrainian crisis will put in motion a worldwide *aliyah* on a scale we have not seen before.

Over six million Jewish people live in America today. Anti-Semitic violence is rising dramatically. An alarming report revealed a 400 per cent increase in such violence in New York City this past February compared with February 2021. Unfortunately, the real numbers are much higher than reported – many acts of violence targeting Jewish people in the USA go unreported.

In the short and long term, thousands of American Jewish lives will be significantly impacted by the current events escalating out of control. The majority of American Jewry have ignored their God-given right to make *aliyah*. Urgent, targeted prayer is taking place every day for the Lord to cause them to come up out of their graves and go to Israel (Ezekiel 37:12). Our fervent prayer

Outreach to churches on the East Coast and other key States is a focal point this year. Please join us in prayer for fresh revelation, that the church would recognise and embrace Israel from the correct biblical perspective. May they understand God's truth according to His prophetic Word to regather His chosen people back to Israel.

Outreach to Jewish communities is growing in scope to raise the banner of *aliyah* in Rockland, Orange, and Westchester counties in New York State. There are numerous large enclaves of Orthodox Jews on the East Coast, especially in New Jersey and Florida.

We are grateful to the Lord for several volunteers in strategic areas ready to join our team as Area Representatives. This tremendous important work will help Operation Exodus USA expand the awareness of God's call and mandate to help Jewish people make *aliyah*. They will carry the revelation of *aliyah* to the church and Jewish communities in their regions.



JOHN PROSSER
PRESIDENT & CEO
OPERATION EXODUS USA



David: "... We genuinely believe that Israel is the place where all Jewish people belong and hope that our immediate family and friends will follow us when they are ready to take this important step."





ARGENTINA

RAUL ROULLIE CHAIRMAN OPERATION EXODUS ARGENTINA

"And I will rejoice with them doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in truth, with all my heart and with all my soul." Jeremiah 32:41

e rejoice with the Lord In the fulfilment of this prophecy of seeing His people arriving in Israel. It is amazing to see how they leave behind different problems and hardships related to the Covid pandemic.

Many of them make *aliyah* with the hope of finding a better future. One such family here in Argentina came to Ebenezer recently in search of help since their financial situation did not allow them to complete all the procedures to make *aliyah*. We were able to assist Jacques, his wife, Laura, and their daughters, Luana and Kaila, in the process and they were approved as *olim*.

Today, they are in the Promised Land, happy and grateful for a non-Jewish organisation that enabled them with so much love to start a new life there.



BRAZIL

STEPPING INTO A NEW LIFE



CARLOS DO SANTOS BRAZIL NATIONAL COORDINATOR

benezer Brazil, alongside the
Jewish Agency and Keren
Leyedidut Jewish organisations, are
helping Jewish people to prepare for
a new beginning in the Land of Israel.
It is a privilege to see people from all
ages being brave and full of hope and
joy as they step into a new life. Here is a
testimony from a young man grateful to
our ministry for the help received:

"I'm Hugo, 27 years old, Brazilian. I decided to make aliyah in order to be closer to my family in Israel which I hadn't seen for a while and it all came together when I got a job offer. I met Ebenezer through the fellowship [Keren Leyedidut] representative. I believe Ebenezer brings rays of light and hope to many people who wish to make aliyah but struggle with different issues."

We appreciate your prayers for Ebenezer Operation Exodus staff members in Brazil as we handle new challenges in every aliyah application.



ALMAH FROM THE WEST PRAYER INITIATIVE

"I will rejoice in doing them "I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done," Isaiah 46:10, ESV

n November 2021 when the International Board discerned that God was calling for a year-long prayer initiative to pray for aliyah from the West, who among us knew that by March 2022 Ukraine would be in crisis and that we would be physically engaged in assisting Ukrainian Jews to flee the country and then providing transportation, food, clothing, shelter, and comfort to them on their way to Israel?

God knew.

The human mind may conclude that a current focus on aliyah from the West is untimely, even impossible. As I write this, there is no end to Ukraine's woes in sight. Meanwhile, applications for aliyah from Russia are suddenly soaring.

God knew.

On Facebook search

Ebenezer OE International

It is still the set time to offer unified prayer for the release of the Jewish people from the West. This includes Western Europe and the entire Western hemisphere with an emphasis on the USA.

The intensity of the shaking of all nations has increased. What is happening with Ukraine and Russia is already having a great impact on the nations of the West. As tremors from this shaking spread throughout the nations a sudden, large wave of aliyah from the West may be one result.

God knew. God knows.

There is none like Him.

Please pray:

- Psalm 105:4. The strength of the Lord for all intercessors to faithfully pray for the front-line workers during the Ukraine conflict as well as alivah from the West and their own nation.
- ✓ Hosea 11:10; Micah 2:13. For the Jewish people in the West to be shaken awake; to hear and recognise the roar of the Lord and follow Him quickly out of the western nations home to Israel.
- ✓ Good relationships and networks in the western nations with the Jewish Agency, churches and other ministries to be strengthened so they can function well in all situations including a crisis.
- Declare Zechariah 4:6 for aliyah from the West: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

On Youtube search

PRAYER



QUAY MESSNER USA PRAYER COORDINATOR



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ISRAEL

SHLOMIT FARBEROV WITH COLIN ROSS ISRAEL TEAM

Top: Markus Ernst from Ebenezer Switzerland welcoming Ukraine olim.

Left to right: Rahel (from Haifa House) with Colin greeting another Ukrainian oleh.

To watch a short film of Olim arriving in Israel scan the QR code or go to https://qr.page/g/5e0ynsaNvqg



was in shock. We all saw it coming but when it actually happened there was still a shock. We heard of preparations for a massive wave of aliyah, but in the meantime there was important regular work to be done from Ebenezer's Jerusalem office: receiving and responding to the requests from needy olim for the help we offer, including giving out all-important food cards to help them in their new lives in Israel.

At last! After four weeks of the war, when I couldn't help feeling my hands were tied and I was useless, I was able to visit a family in the north of Israel. A mother and son with her parents, separated from husband and father, had recently made *aliyah* and



needed some support and connection to the Russian speakers in their local community.

A Jerusalem hotel housing refugees had been set up as a hub providing consular services; banking assistance; access to the Ministry of Absorption and other Israeli government workers helping them with their first few weeks in Israel. They were crying out for Russian-speaking volunteers to talk with the new immigrants and go with them to help with registering for healthcare, finding permanent housing, getting SIM cards for their phones, and changing money.

We rejoiced when our team was invited to Ben Gurion Airport to meet a Polish Airways flight bringing 107 *olim* home to Israel. Waiting on the tarmac in the early evening darkness, with the media folk and their placards and Israel flags preparing to hand out sweets to children, the emotion and tears welled up inside.

Some enjoyed the fanfare of welcome. Others just wanted to get away to a comfortable bed or a meal. I simply wanted to give each person a hug. Darina and her son had fled Kharkiv in the first days of the war, leaving their home and their old lives behind. She told their story and I was privileged to translate for those eager to hear this first-hand account. Most importantly, she was home!

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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