



AID FOR BNEI MENASHE



*"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!"
Says your God."*

ISAIAH 40:1 NKJV

A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel



INDIA



ABE OOMMEN
INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER
INDIA

More than 27 centuries ago, the Assyrian empire was instrumental in sending 10 out of the 12 tribes of Israel into exile. Scattered among the nations, they sought refuge wherever they were allowed to settle in peace. One such tribe was the *Manasseh*.

The Manasseh wandered through Central Asia and the Far East for centuries, finally settling in Manipur and Mizoram, now the northeastern states of India, along the border with Burma and Bangladesh. Today the Bnei Menashe is a group of over 4,500 Jews living in these two states.

Most of them live in and around Churachandpur, a small and dusty town in interior Manipur, the headquarters of the Bnei Menashe Council. The Shavei Israel organisation runs an absorption centre there to facilitate and prepare the community to make *aliyah*.

Despite wandering for generations and being separated from Israel, the Bnei Menashe have never forgotten who they are, never losing their identities among the people groups and communities where they are living. They continue to practise Judaism, observing the

Sabbath, keeping Kosher, celebrating the Jewish festivals and nourishing deep within their hearts the yearning to one day return to their beloved land of Israel.

Since 2013, Ebenezer Operation Exodus has partnered with Shavei Israel to help the members of the Bnei Menashe to return to Eretz (Land of) Israel. The *aliyah* of the Bnei Menashe is one of the greatest acts of God's faithfulness. He spoke through the prophet Nehemiah that even "*though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there*" (Nehemiah 1:9, NKJV).

At the beginning of May this year, an ethnic conflict between the Kukis and the Meiteis, the two communities living in Manipur, broke out without prior warning. There was a tribal solidarity march on 3 May, a protest by the Kuki and Naga communities against the Meitei-controlled state government's plans to dispossess them of their property. Once these homes came under the authority of the state, the Meiteis would be able to take control over Kuki homes in the hills, so during the Kuki-led peaceful march, they were violently attacked



These synagogue congregations are among those who have been receiving aid.



ASHE



by the Meiteis, the majority of whose people live in the area's central valley.

More than 100 Kuki were killed and many injured when homes were attacked, looted and burned. The survivors fled, leaving everything behind and over 2,000 houses destroyed.

The Bnei Menashe, because they were Kukis, were also targeted by Meiteis. They continue to be in danger. Many of them lost their homes and belongings and most of their synagogues were attacked.

Even as these dreadful events were unfolding, the Ebenezer Operation Exodus office in India started receiving calls and messages from the Shavei Israel office in India with urgent pleas to help the victims with food and essential items. Immediately we made plans to supply this aid to those in the relief camps in Mizoram, where some from Manipur had sought refuge. There is also a small Bnei Menashe community in Mizoram.

We obtained a ton of food items and delivered them within a few days to more than 150 families in Mizoram. Nine tons of food was

delivered to Beith Shalom synagogue in Churachandpur, Manipur, and distributed to around 550 needy families.

On 1 June we went to Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, and met with the Bnei Menashe community leaders. Mr Jeremiah (the president) and Mr Azriel (general secretary) welcomed us and explained the situation. We also met and talked to families who had fled from Manipur and were living in the synagogue premises in Aizawl. Our visit was a source of great encouragement for them, and they were visibly moved to see Christians coming far from the south of India to help them.

All glory and praise to God, who enabled Ebenezer supporters, not only in India, but worldwide to be His hands and feet to the ones in need! He indeed sent His angelic armies to protect the people who were taking the food items through the troubled areas.

Please continue to pray for the safety of the Bnei Menashe in India and their aliyah. We are hoping that a big group will reach Israel soon. That's their hope too!



These synagogue members were so grateful to us for coming such a long way to help them.

MIRACLES, MEMORY AND ALIYAH

ISRAEL/INTERNATIONAL



DANIELLE MOR
DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN FRIENDS
OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

Seventy-five years of a miracle! It's hard to grasp, but Israel celebrated 75 years of independence just a few months ago: a miracle indeed.

Serving with the Jewish Agency for Israel, the organisation that founded the state of Israel, I often reflect on how fortunate we are to live in such times: times that can be defined with three central concepts: **miracle, memory and aliyah.**

The fact that the state of Israel was established after 2000 years of exile and just three years after the Holocaust, which aimed to wipe out the Jewish people, is a clear **miracle** of our times. The prophet asks, “*Can a nation be born in a day...?*” (Isaiah 66:8, NIV). Many people around the world would answer “Yes.”

Miracles and creation are God’s doing, but hard labour is for people, which The Jewish Agency for Israel was tasked with. A major focus of the labours of past leaders such as David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir and Haim Weitzman was **aliyah.**

Aliyah is a beautiful word. It speaks of action (to go up) and of meaning – to be closer to the Lord. It is both ancient and modern and, to this day, is an act of faith which stems from **memory.** A memory

passed by our people from the time of the holy temple, throughout centuries of prayer, lamentation and longing, to finally, since the miracle of Israel came into being, it has become possible as the physical and spiritual return to the land. After 2000 years of exile, the memories that sustained the scattered Jews throughout the centuries of their people, their homeland and the Lord’s promises can now be seen in making *aliyah.*

We know there are many challenges. In the first two years of Israel’s existence, the *aliyah* of over 500,000 Jews meant the population doubled! In those years, the challenges were basic – surviving war, feeding, clothing and housing the new *olim.* My grandparents, who came from Iran, lived in a tent for a year and a shack for two further years until they finally had a proper home.

So when we think about the over 3.5 million Jews that have come back to their homeland from over 100 countries speaking over 40 languages, isn’t that a daunting task? But the Bible clearly tells us “*Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!’ Bring my sons*



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Operation Exodus





from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 43:5-6, NIV).

We all need much courage at this time. The war in Ukraine is still raging, and our people need rescuing. The war is creating a tidal wave, a tsunami of impact in the entire region, resulting in 74,915 *olim* in 2022 – the highest in 22 years! Each person making *aliyah* needs loving kindness, encouragement and assurance to build a new life and truly settle in their homeland.

Recognition of the miracles amidst the tragedies and hardships, with our memory, gives us the courage to act in these tumultuous times.

Memory is a key principle, in fact a central commandment in Judaism. We are commanded to remember the exodus from Egypt, the Sabbath, the trials and tribulations. And not just to remember, but to share these stories with our children, communities and the world.

We are commanded to remember these things so that we may have faith, be encouraged and know what our task is, and our role to play. So when we are faced, at the same time, with miracles and terrible tragedies, we will not despair but rather know that we must move from

memory to action. It means labouring alongside the miracles, just as people did when the state of Israel was established. Becoming people of action means progressing the work of *aliyah*.

Over this past year of war in Ukraine, there have been many stories of tragedy, miracles, memory and *aliyah*. Stories such as 84-year-old Holocaust survivor Rita who was alone, confused and terrified as she crossed the border into Poland. We found her amidst the thousands of refugees and brought her home to Israel, with her daughter, granddaughter and great-grandson. We did this with dedicated and selfless volunteers, many from Ebenezer. They were there with us as they too believe in miracles, memory and *aliyah*.

Let us never take for granted that Israel is a state celebrating 75 years of its independence. Let us reflect together, as Christians and Jews, on the nation’s foundations. We cherish the continued historic mission of *aliyah*, of connecting the *olim* to Israeli society to prosper and develop the country’s strength and future. In doing so, we acknowledge the miracles, we preserve the memory and we act towards *aliyah*. We will continue to do so by bringing our hearts together.

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).

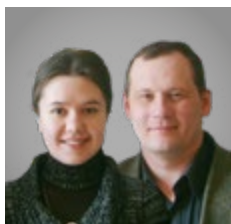


Above: Ulpan classes (to learn Hebrew) for new *olim*.



NEW ALIYAH HIGHWAYS

MOLDOVA



PAVEL & LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS

According to the Jewish Agency, the first quarter of the year saw a downturn in *aliyah* from almost every country in the world except the “land of the north” (Jeremiah 16:15), the former Soviet Union. There it has tripled.

No wonder potential *olim* from this part of the world have to consider and try new ways of applying for *aliyah* by making an appointment with an Israeli consul in some other nation, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia and Moldova. Otherwise they would have to wait for several months or longer if they chose to do it in their own country because of extremely long waiting lists.

Among the *olim* our team in Moldova has had the privilege of assisting with *aliyah* recently was Leonid, his wife, Violeta, who was pregnant, and their three-year-old daughter Melania. Leonid was born in Transnistria, Moldova, whereas Violeta came from Ukraine. After getting married, they moved to Moscow, where they lived for a few years. After Violeta became pregnant with their second child, they realised it was time to make *aliyah*. There were

two major matters to settle: to submit their documents and to apply for *aliyah*, as well as to transport their dog, whom they refused to leave behind.

First, the family decided to go to Tbilisi, Georgia, and from there Violeta and Melania took a flight to Chisinau, Moldova’s capital, whereas Leonid followed by bus, as the airline (the only one operating flights in that direction) does not allow pets on their planes. It proved to be a very long and tiresome journey but, of course, worth it.

Upon his safe arrival in Chisinau, Leonid asked us to help, as he and his daughter needed new passports. We were happy to provide the necessary assistance, including transport to the airport for their flight to Israel (via Warsaw) and to encourage this young family filled with hope for a bright and happy future in the Promised Land!

Please pray for God’s protection for all olim as they make aliyah through Moldova.

Above: The Peoples Friendship Arch in Khreshchatyy Park, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Below: The family boarding the Ebenezer minibus taking them from the hotel to the airport.

Bottom Right: At Chisinau airport before their flight to Israel.



A young man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue puffer jacket, stands in front of a large, historic brick castle with multiple towers and red-tiled roofs. The scene is set in a city with European-style buildings in the background under a cloudy sky.

HELPING VLAD

Vlad is 21 years old and lived in the Luhansk region of Ukraine. With his mother disabled, he was raised by his grandmother. He did not see anything good as he often lay in hospital. Before the war, he went to college and moved to Zaporizhzhia. Then the war began, Zaporizhzhia was heavily shelled and the institute was closed.

The Jewish Agency offered Vlad a study programme in Israel and he accepted. He was able to leave Ukraine due to his disability. His first attempt to cross the border was unsuccessful, and he had to return to Ukraine for a document that Ukrainian border guards demanded. We prayed and he received a disability certificate. It was the last paper document that they had and gave him. The next attempt to cross the border was successful.

Vlad travelled by train from Ukraine to Przemysl, a border town in Poland where Ebenezer volunteers have been meeting *olim* from Ukraine and providing accommodation and

meals in a hotel. Kazik, the Przemysl base leader, arranged for Vlad to be picked up at the railway station. Then Andrei, a local church member, bought him food and a train ticket to Warsaw.

We met him in Warsaw and brought him to the hotel. The Jewish Agency had asked us to help him buy necessary items since some of his clothing was old and torn. Suitcases donated from Germany for *olim* were among the things he really appreciated.

Vlad said, *'I am Thankful to Ebenezer, that you have helped me with my coming here to Poland and picking me up. Thanks to all the sponsors that you are helping with everything. All the shopping that was done, I am so thrilled, so glad that now I have all that I need, that you are always there, ready to help. Helping all people like me, who are making aliyah and are in need of your help. Once again a big thank-you!'*

Vlad flew to Israel to start his studies under the programme. We are glad we had the opportunity to help him.

UKRAINE/POLAND



TANYA
UKRAINE TEAM





TAKING THE BIG STEP

USA



SHIRLEY LAWRENSON
USA TEAM

"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?" Jeremiah 32:27, NASB

A *liyah is a uniquely personal decision for our Jewish friends. More and more they share with us that the steps towards making *aliyah* mean "Trusting the Lord."*

With all the challenges in the USA and Israel, the *olim* understand that they will have to trust in the Lord with all their heart to direct their steps to complete their successful *aliyah* journey. To uproot their life from the USA and move to Eretz (Land of) Israel takes courage and trust, but nothing is too difficult for the Lord to provide, and He can provide all they need.

God has prepared a highway for His people to travel home to Israel, their true homeland. He fills them with dreams and the ability to trust Him to guide their homeward steps. *"Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstacle out of the way of My people"* (Isaiah 57:14, NASB).

Operation Exodus USA must be prepared to assist much greater numbers of *olim* in the coming months. One major boulder blocking the way for many

of them is the high financial cost of making *aliyah* from the USA.

Our commitment is to obey God's command to assist and to carry His sons and daughters back to Israel (Isaiah 49:22).

Some of those we have been blessed to assist shared:

Mathew and family: *"Israel is our history, both familial and as a people. Our roots are planted there, and our future will blossom there."*

Andrew: *"My whole life I believed that Israel is my homeland and I want to finally achieve my dream of living there."*

Miriam and family: *"Thank you for your generous and kind donation to support our *aliyah*. It is tremendously helpful to us, especially in these turbulent times. We grew up learning our history which includes so much persecution. We both feel blessed that we live in a generation where Christians are supportive of Jews, and pray that together we can build a better world."*

May we all be encouraged to continue to stand with them in prayer and comfort.

*Bottom images
from left to right: Andrew;
Mathew and family;
Miriam and family.*





REVEALING GOD'S LOVE IN UKRAINE AND POLAND

Amidst the war in Ukraine, where there seems to be no end in sight, our specific mission to stand by the Jewish people and especially to support them on their way to Israel has given us many opportunities to reveal God's love and experience His miracles in a very real way.

In March I spent eight days in east Ukraine with our Ebenezer team. We gave food parcels to hundreds of families and told them about the possibilities of making *aliyah*. We heard many moving stories: miracles of preservation as the tanks rolled through villages, of care received when fleeing and families kept safe during the fighting.

So we learned from people, some seriously injured, about everyday life in the war. Daily (mostly at night), we had missile alerts. Despite this, people tried to carry on their lives normally; some seemingly hardly responded to the sirens, while others regularly rushed to the shelters.

There are still tens of thousands of Jews or relatives of Jews in the country. Often the women do not want to leave without their spouses. There is still martial law prohibiting men aged 18-60 from leaving the country. There are exceptions, such as families with many children, sick people or injured people.

We have met many young mothers, some without husbands or whose husbands had become soldiers. They were delighted with the food and clothing, and we prayed with almost all of them and shared Scripture passages. Some were unaware they could emigrate to Israel, so we showed them which papers they needed and encouraged them to take the steps as soon as possible.

Many of them first need a passport, and we support them financially to get one. Others lack the documents required to prove their Jewish ancestry. It is particularly challenging for refugees from territories under Russian occupation as many lost their documents when their homes were destroyed.

Almost every day we hear testimonies of Jewish people waiting in the hotel in Warsaw to continue to Israel. Ebenezer workers Tanya and Kate answer their very practical questions. Thanks to many faithful donors, we can help the *olim* with medication, medical bills or to buy essential clothing.

Please pray that many more Jewish people from Ukraine will begin to make preparations to make *aliyah* soon.

UKRAINE/POLAND



JOHANNES BARTHEL
REGIONAL COORDINATOR



Left: Yanya
providing support
to a young family.

Right: Vadim
and Yanya.



COSTA RICA



WALTER VEGA
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
COSTA RICA

The work of *aliyah* was established in our nation last November when I became the President of Ebenezer Costa Rica and Gustavo Acuña became Vice-President. In the following six months we spoke with Christian groups throughout the country and taught about the restoration of Israel, God's love for the Jewish people and His calling to them to return to the land of their forefathers.

We visited Costa Rica's main synagogue and the Israeli Embassy in San Jose, presenting Ebenezer's ministry. We were accompanied by Pastor Silvia Carbajal of Ebenezer Mexico and Pastors Freddy and Estelita Batz of Ebenezer Guatemala. The Israeli Embassy representative received us and was very moved by our words. She thanked us for all that we do in all the different countries of the world. What she appreciates most is knowing that Christian believers pray and intercede for Israel and the Jewish people.

I attended the Summit of the Americas this past April and made recordings of all the teaching at our conferences. After returning home, I decided to share everything I had learned. So I visited the Israeli Embassy at the request of their representative,



who wanted to know more about the support Ebenezer offers to *olim* families. That day an important relationship was established. She asked how the Israeli Embassy could cooperate with Ebenezer to support the large number of *olim* families in Costa Rica.

This led to *aliyah* first fruits beginning in June. The contact with the first family was through another *oleh* from Colombia. This family requires support with their visas and suitcases and are due to go to Israel soon. The Israeli Embassy representative was very excited about Ebenezer supporting them. The second family have already completed their *aliyah*.

This is the blessing on sowing given by the Lord for the opening of the paths of *aliyah* throughout Central America.



Right: Two families we have helped from Costa Rica.



BREAKTHROUGHS IN AUSTRIA

What a privilege it is to see how God keeps His faithfulness towards the Jewish people, how He glorifies Himself through *aliyah* and how we are invited to be part of His great plan of salvation!

"Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you ... Sing for joy, you heavens, for the LORD has done this; shout aloud, you earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the LORD has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel." (Isaiah 44:21 & 23, NIV).

We are thankful that Austria, despite our nation's shameful and horrible past, is allowed to be part of His plan and that He wants to use us in the future to bless the Jewish people. In recent years we have been able to experience God's faithfulness and see how *"The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel"* (Psalm 147:2, NIV). The Lord has been sustaining Ebenezer Operation Exodus Austria for over

ten years. We are grateful for all the givers, whether in prayer or financially.

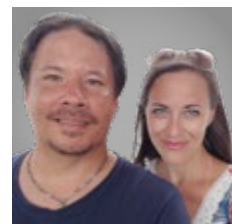
After many years of faithful prayer, the Lord answered in marvellous ways: in 2021 we supported our first *aliyah* from Austria, and doors opened to various churches. God gave us contacts in South Tyrol and various regions in our nation. We saw how the Lord touched the heart of a pastor who was hostile towards our ministry for Israel and *aliyah*. He assured us of support for future activities!

At a theological college last year, replacement theology was publicly confessed as the source of suffering for the Jewish people.

Please pray:

- ✓ For the body of Christ in Austria.
- ✓ Against the spread of replacement theology.
- ✓ That God will call the younger generation into *aliyah* ministry.
- ✓ For the Jewish communities, especially in Vienna.
- ✓ For a strong prayer network in our nation.

PRAYER



CHI HOU AND GABRIELA FINK
NATIONAL COORDINATORS
AUSTRIA

Let us confess as one voice "But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting!" (Isaiah 45:17, NIV).

EBENEZER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Jerusalem 17-22 November 2024

Light in the Darkness

ISAIAH 60:1-2

BOOKING INFORMATION

www.ebenezer-oe.org/events



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS



CLARA'S MATTRESS

ISRAEL



COLIN ROSS
ISRAEL TEAM

Why, when you come to Israel, do you get sick?" We were using Google Translate on our phones to communicate, slowly! But there was no problem in understanding Clara's pitiful question.

A divorcee in her 50s, she had come alone to Israel from Argentina. And now this! She had been diagnosed with a condition requiring lots of expensive medication and it prevented her from working. While she would eventually be supported by Israeli benefits, it would still take some months until she received them.



A novel way to deliver a mattress.

In desperation she had been in contact with Ebenezer in South America, and they had written to us to ask if we could help. What she most needed, she said, was a mattress for her bed.

We immediately offered to buy the mattress. I noticed that her address in Tel Aviv was five minutes' walk from my son David and daughter-in-law Tori, so I went to see Clara and buy the mattress she had found nearby.

Delivery was interesting. A double bed mattress carried through the city streets on the head of an African-origin foreign resident. At least Clara's building has an elevator!

So job done. With Clara's permission, I prayed for her and departed, both of us filled with joy by our encounter.

I popped around to David and Tori for coffee. Tori speaks Spanish ("It's rather rusty," she apologised) and has a great willingness to help. So Clara has her phone number. Maybe they will be in contact in the future!

Please pray for Clara and other olim who have returned to Israel that they will be firmly planted in the Land.

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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