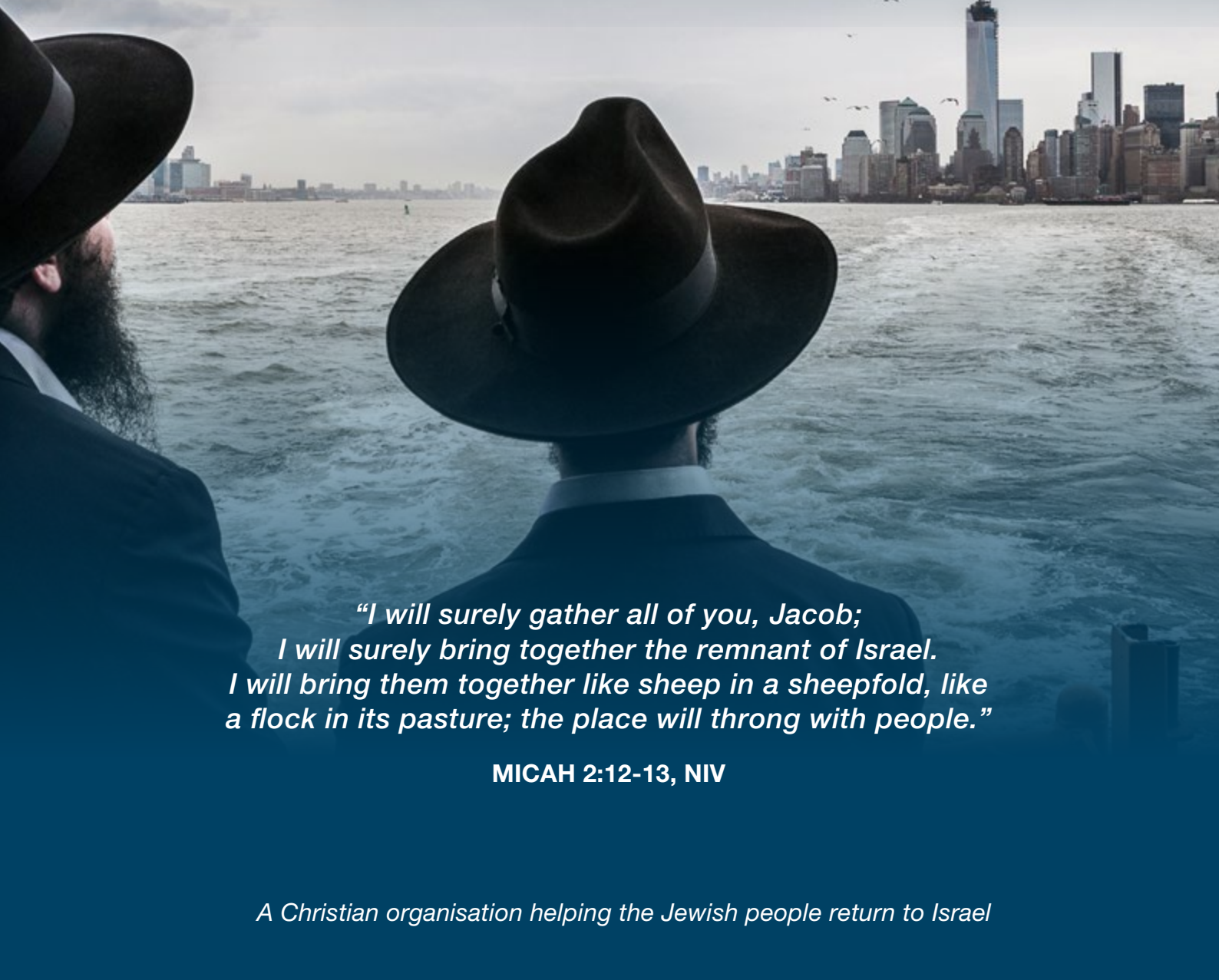




CRUCIAL TIMES FOR AMERICAN JEWRY



*"I will surely gather all of you, Jacob;
I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel.
I will bring them together like sheep in a sheepfold, like
a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people."*

MICAH 2:12-13, NIV



CRUCIAL TIMES FOR AMERICAN JEWRY

USA/INTERNATIONAL



JOHN PROSSER
PRESIDENT
OPERATION EXODUS USA

"I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a sheepfold, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. The One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the Lord at their head." Micah 2:12-13, NIV

God's call and mandate for Operation Exodus USA has never faced such a high level of urgency to assist Jewish people moving to Israel in fulfilment of Isaiah 49:22. We are escalating our efforts to spread awareness of our work to help our Jewish friends in the troubling days ahead. Now is the time to stand firm, to take courage and be strong in our commitment and partnership with God as He gathers His people to Israel.

Aliyah from the USA is becoming increasingly challenging with each passing day, not just for OE USA but also for the *olim* themselves. Making *aliyah* has turned into a very complex and difficult process with many unexpected delays, adding much fear and anxiety to their lives. Some have sold their businesses, their homes and resigned from their jobs in anticipation of moving to Israel without such delays. Some are questioning if this is the right timing and even whether *aliyah* is the right decision. Others are concerned about the instability and dangers they may encounter in Israel.

The erosion of our way of life in America is spreading like cancer, with dire consequences for Jew and Gentile alike. The outrageous increase in anti-Semitism continues to grow at an alarming rate in major places of power and influence in our nation.

American Jewry is taking note. Unfortunately for the vast majority, making *aliyah* is not their first course of action. American Holocaust survivors are lamenting the devastating events they are witnessing today and connecting the dots to the past atrocities they experienced at the hands of the Nazi regime. They are warning fellow Jews to recognise the signs of the times unravelling before them. Sadly, life goes on for most American Jewish people. No alarms are going off urging them to make *aliyah* now before time runs out.

Making connections with the Jewish leadership in the vast communities around us, specifically in New York City and the state of New York, New Jersey and other adjacent states is complex, time-

These two olim families give us a powerful testimony of the reasons that motivated them to make aliyah:

Naomi (photo left):

"First and foremost, we're making aliyah in order to live our lives where we are meant to be, and where we are able to serve God to our utmost ability. We want to be part of the fulfilment of the ingathering of exiles."

Chaviva (photo right):

"The increase in anti-Semitism in the USA and around the world is a key reason that I want to get my kids back to Israel. The fire of Judaism and the Jewish people burns in Israel, and it is only from there that we can truly be a light unto the nations."





consuming work. The size and diversity of the Jewish population is vast. We have an obligation to raise the banner of *aliyah* in these places. Prayer is key for opening doors and opportunities to promote their trust in God's covenant with Israel.

The Lord called us to a prophetic task by engaging in constant and fervent intercessory prayer in agreement with God's prophetic Word. An altar of intercessory prayer of the Holy Spirit, focused intercession is the weapon that removes the obstacles preventing or delaying American Jewry from making *aliyah*. Prayer must grow and intensify to meet the needs of the times we are facing.

Expanding our network of Area Representatives throughout the USA is paramount to the success of our work. We have a team of faithful and seasoned partners and a prime focus is for others to join us.

Building relationships with local Jewish and Christian communities is vital to the work at hand. Church support is crucial for our preparation and readiness. These efforts will promote partnerships to support a strong structure to facilitate *aliyah* for today and in times of distress. Developing teaching resources to share with the Church is central in emphasising



the Gentiles' responsibility to assist Jewish people with their return to Israel.

Investing and equipping the future generation is of great value to our organisation. Connecting with those who exemplify Godly character and a desire to stand with Israel will greatly enhance our work. Awareness and growth of the work of *aliyah* will increase through their efforts, generating future support for the greater return of the Jewish people to come.

Working in partnership with Ebenezer Operation Exodus International is of utmost importance to the OE USA leadership. I have great confidence that we will support one another, standing strong together undergirded by intercession, as we navigate the work of *aliyah* through very turbulent times in the unity of God's perfect will and timing.

We are grateful for all those that the Lord has sent to us thus far, to encourage, pray and provide assistance to those making *aliyah*, which many *olim* share is the fulfilment of a dream. For others, their decision is in direct response to the uncertainty of life in America and the rise of anti-Semitic acts of hatred and violence against them as a people.

Are we standing at the threshold of a mighty wave of *aliyah* from the USA? Only God knows. We trust in the One who breaks open the way to go before them and His people will break through the gate and go out! To our God be all the glory, praise and honour!

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).

Please pray:

- ✓ For Jewish people in the USA to recognise the signs of the times and decide to make *aliyah* now.
- ✓ For building relationships between our teams and with the Jewish leadership and Christian communities.

Top & left: Celebrate Israel Parade, Fifth Avenue, New York. Last year's parade theme was Together Again in response to the rise of anti-Semitism in New York and terrorist attacks in Israel.

IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?

UKRAINE



VADIM RABOCHY
UKRAINE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

It seems unrealistic, but more than a year has already passed since the beginning of the Russian war against Ukraine. As with many of our countrymen, we have suffered artillery shelling, missile strikes and the frightening wailing of sirens. We have gone through a number of difficult situations while helping Jewish people to immigrate to Israel in the midst of war and indeed we can testify that “if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us” (Psalm 124:2-3, NIV).



Bucha and Irpin in the Kyiv region are very well known for the first killings that took place in the conflict. We assisted a few Jewish families from those towns to move to Israel. Oleksandr and Margarita couldn't move anywhere when the war began because their grown-up daughter, Olena, suffered from cerebral palsy

were still mined so our driver led them from their house to the car by a path, step by step. There was a very long queue to enter Kyiv due to the number of checkpoints and they missed their train. But, praise the Lord, we managed to buy tickets for a later one leaving the same day and the



Above: War-stricken bridge and destroyed apartments.

Right: Oleksandr, Margarita and Olena ready to board a coach in Bucha for the next part of their aliyah journey.

and had to get around in a wheelchair. They managed to survive as their house in the outskirts of Bucha was very old and didn't attract any attention. Thanks to being able to can their vegetables, they were OK with food to eat. As soon as Bucha was liberated we arranged their evacuation to the Lviv region.

Their trip to safety in western Ukraine was an adventure in itself. Many places in Bucha

next morning they finally reached safety. As Oleksandr, Margarita and Olena arrived with very few clothes, we bought some new ones. Margarita was especially delighted that we also bought new slippers for her.

After they'd had a good rest we took them to Poland for an Israeli consular reception and at the end of April 2022 the three of them arrived in their true homeland, Israel.

FINDING A WAY THROUGH

Igor, Nastya and daughter Zlata lived in Irpin but left on the first day of the war to find refuge in the Kyiv region. Returning after Irpin was freed from Russian occupation, they found their flat shattered and Nastya's company car damaged by a missile. So they left again, moving to western Ukraine, where Nastya found she was pregnant. They decided on another move - to Israel.

We helped the family cross the Ukraine border into Poland, Igor going first and Nastya and Zlata following in another vehicle. After staying at Ebenezer's Poland base for a day through bad weather they arrived in Warsaw, waiting three weeks for the Israeli ambassador's arrival to check their documents.

The ambassador requested additional documents so Nastya had to return to

Kyiv, where I helped her find one document in the archive and another much-needed one was received from the Moscow Red Cross. Returning to Warsaw resulted in the family receiving their visa to make *aliyah* and they flew to Israel in January.



UKRAINE



TANYA
UKRAINE TEAM

Above: Nastya's company car damaged by a missile.

Left: Tanya with Igor, Nastya and Zlata.



Last year our team found good opportunities to meet Jewish families and urge them to go to Israel through distributing food parcels for refugees in western Ukraine. These trips enabled us to search for those who had Jewish roots and were therefore eligible to make *aliyah*. They were fruitful trips.

With the whole of Ukraine suffering power cuts and missile strikes as I write, we have



been providing food parcels, hygiene items and clothes for Jewish families living in cities like Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhya and Odessa. It's a great privilege to do this as part of the expression of our love and support for Jewish people, especially for those who live under the threat of their lives. We do believe that nothing is too hard for God and He will bring all of them home to Israel.

Left: Yanya and Victor with food parcels for distribution in Odessa.

Right: Yanya provides aid, support and comfort.



HUNGARY



ZSUZSANNA FIGUEREDO-KISS
HUNGARY TEAM

“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.” Ezekiel 36:24, NIV

By the Lord’s grace, our small Ebenezer team in Hungary is involved in helping refugees from Ukraine seeking resettlement in Israel. It is such a privilege to help in the *aliyah* taking place before our eyes!

A congregation in Budapest offered to help and has twice provided us with a church bus and driver. Then the Swiss Ebenezer team loaned us a minibus for as long as we needed it. Further help came in December through a Christian brother offering to bring us another minibus from Romania owned by Ebenezer.

Since we began helping with transportation last October we have brought nearly 80 Jewish people from the Ukrainian border to a hotel in Budapest run by the Jewish Agency for those wanting to make *aliyah*. After arriving in Hungary’s capital most of them succeeded in obtaining permission to do so from the Israeli Consul and reached the land of their forefathers.

At the end of February the Israeli consul left Hungary due to a decrease in demand, so for now Jews from Ukraine cannot make *aliyah* from our country. But we believe that God is in control of the process and will open gates wherever and whenever the need arises. We need the earnest prayers of all who have a genuine concern for the *aliyah* ministry.

Please pray

- ✓ That those returning to Israel will be able to put their roots down there.
- ✓ That we will always hear the Word of the Lord and receive guidance clearly so that we can help His chosen people make *aliyah*. We need a clear understanding of the Lord’s plan and boldness for taking action.
- ✓ That the Lord may build bridges to Jewish hearts and prepare us for the times ahead.
- ✓ For people called by God to support us as intercessors and volunteers to help us with translation and social media.
- ✓ That the Lord calls more churches and pastors to support Ebenezer.
- ✓ That the Lord may stir up the hearts of Christians to pray for Israel and the Jewish people.





“So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing. With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” Isaiah 51:11, NKJV

Over a year has passed since the war in Ukraine broke out. Since then the world has shifted dramatically, but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Mighty One of Israel, remains faithful to His unchangeable plans and purposes for Israel and for the nations.

Thankfully during this time, we have seen God’s hand upon our ministry to the Jewish people, as we have had the privilege of assisting a large number of potential *olim* from Ukraine, Moldova and, most recently, from other countries, to go home to Israel. Families choose to apply for *aliyah* here in Chisinau, our capital, because they don’t want to have to wait for an appointment with the Israeli Consul elsewhere.

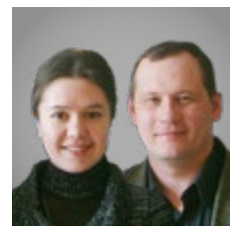
We never thought that one day we would be helping Jewish families from other countries make *aliyah* via Moldova, but the Lord had prepared and opened up this new highway for His people from “the land of the north” (Jeremiah 16:15) in His perfect timing!

Among the numerous *olim* we helped recently was a family from Transnistria, Moldova - Sergey and Anna, and their four daughters, Maria (16), Sofia (9), Anastasia (7) and Taisia (1). Anna, a cardiologist, is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, Piotr, whom we had known for a long time before he sadly passed away a few years ago.

As with all Jewish families from this region, there was a lot of paperwork, and Ebenezer helped them with their documents as well as giving financial support, which Sergey and Anna deeply appreciated, along with our prayers and practical assistance which included transport to the airport for their flight to Israel in mid-January.

Anna and her family were full of hope for a bright and peaceful future in Israel. Anna was very excited on the day of their *aliyah*, as she fulfilled the dream of her late grandfather as well as descendants who have “returned” to Israel.

MOLDOVA



**PAVEL AND LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS**

Please pray for strength and perseverance for our teams across this region as they continue to help many olim in their aliyah process.



Left: A family of three generations from Russia, whom our Moldova team helped while they were applying for aliyah in Chisinau. They arrived in Israel in mid-February.

Right: We shared Anna and her family’s joy as they made aliyah and wished them God’s richest blessings in the Land they belong to.



FACING THE CHALLENGES

ARGENTINA



RAUL ROULLIE
CHAIRMAN,
EBENEZER ARGENTINA

*Top: Stained glass window
in the synagogue of the
Hadassah hospital.*

*A young girl like the one in
this article has her blood
sugar tested. It needs to be
done 7-10 times a day.*

The past two years have been challenging for Ebenezer Argentina as we seek to help *olim* with various needs. Our office is near the Jewish Agency, where there is a humanitarian aid and accommodation centre for families who arrive from the interior of the country needing somewhere to stay and to receive advice on their *aliyah* process.

Some come to us with disability or illness and thanks to your support we provide them with the necessary help.

One family needed help for their ten-year-old daughter with diabetes and insulin dependence. The problem is so serious that any stress affects blood glucose levels, potentially putting her at high risk. The parents' decision to make *aliyah* meant a very big challenge, but they knew their daughter would be better

cared for in Israel and it was time for her, as well as for them, to leave Israel.

Please pray that now the family is in Israel she would have access to the latest technology to help manage her diabetes.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



AZIR NDOMBE
NATIONAL COORDINATOR,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

Many Christians are unaware of God's plans for Israel, especially with regard to the return of the Jewish people to Israel.

I spent almost two months in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) giving lectures and Bible seminars on Israel in churches and to theology students. Although eastern DRC is 80 per cent Christian, people are ignorant of what God is doing for Israel. Hence the need to spread the message of *aliyah* widely to give people the opportunity to understand God's will and get involved. Christian people need to be well taught about *aliyah* to be able to properly support this ministry.

Africa in general and our nation in particular are capable of supporting *aliyah* from all nations provided that ways and

means are given to spread abundantly beautiful and powerful teaching about it.

Please pray for the eastern DRC, which is plagued by repeated wars and that the Lord will watch over our teams across Africa and give them the strength to keep pressing on.





NEVER GIVE UP

Because of the terrible war in Ukraine over 10,000 refugees arrived in Berlin in a matter of weeks. Each night up to seven trains overcrowded with them arrived at the city's main station. Hundreds of Jewish families have been stranded in Germany but happily many of them had friends and relatives here who lovingly cared for them. Our team also helped some of them, especially with accommodation and food. We praise the Lord for giving us such wonderful opportunities to minister to them in these ways!

The heart-rending events of the past year have made us realise that we cannot overcome these challenges alone. For some while we have been praying that more and more churches would stand with us and we are seeing God answer our cries! Johannes Barthel (Regional Coordinator) and I visited many churches and prayer groups in Germany in 2022 and found an increasing number of open doors, with more pastors and leaders opening their hearts to help the Jewish people.

We are seeing how even hard ground is slowly softening and praise the Lord for this new openness. In the midst of this increasingly turbulent world understanding of the Scriptures concerning the Church, the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is rising. One pastor who used to be critical of Israel friends said, "I'm beginning to understand that there is something that I have never understood or paid attention to before."

I have been learning about being sensitive to congregations in speaking about these things. Often sharing a meal and taking an interest in the needs of the community can open up hearts for Israel. Inviting pastors and leaders, with their wives, to dinners in several regions in Germany has resulted in them "accidentally" learning about Israel and *aliyah*. One pastor remarked, "You have touched my heart anew. Thank you so much!"

Don't give up: God listens to prayer! Pray full of faith for your pastor, leaders and your church. Be blessed with creative ideas on how to share God's will concerning Israel.

GERMANY



WINFRIED RUDLOFF
GERMANY NATIONAL COORDINATOR



Top: Sharing the message of aliyah with pastors and leaders at a special dinner.

Left: Two refugees making aliyah from Germany with support from two volunteers.



STEVE LIGHTLE: A TRIBUTE

INTERNATIONAL

Steve Lightle, our beloved brother, was called home to be with the Lord on 16 March 2023.

In August 1974 Steve received a vision that God would judge the then Soviet Union and bring the Jewish people there home to Israel by ship and air. He subsequently made many trips to the USSR (today known as the former Soviet Union), visiting Jewish communities to prepare them to make *aliyah*.

In 1991 Steve was there with Gustav Scheller, founder of Ebenezer Operation Exodus, when the Exodus Shipping Line was established to bring Jewish people from the USSR to Israel by ship and plane.

Steve wrote the best-selling books 'Exodus II' in 1983 and 'Operation Exodus II' in 1998.

We are so grateful to the Lord for Steve's life and wish to honour Him for all the blessings, gifts and times of

good fellowship we had through him over the years. He was precious to us and we will miss his joy, his laughter, his speaking at events and his stories.



From left to right: Steve, Elsa Scheller, Judy Lightle and Gustav Scheller.

BURKINA FASO



ABRAHAM MILLOGO
NATIONAL COORDINATOR,
BURKINA FASO

PRESSING ON!

The Lord said to Israel, *"Do not fear, I will help you"* (Isaiah 41:13, NIV). In Burkina Faso the Lord also came to our rescue. Indeed, the insecurity in our country has made our fieldwork more challenging, but we bless Him because our "Israel and the Bible" broadcasts on local radio stations allow us to be in contact with the churches.

We also bless the Lord for the partner churches in the insecure areas who continue to support the ministry spiritually and financially. What grace!

And we are grateful to the Lord for contacts in two neighbouring countries, Ivory Coast and Togo. We hope to soon have intercessors in these nations for the ministry and for the nation of Israel.

Our thanks for the team's monthly prayer for Africa by Zoom. By His grace we will do great things again.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wonders! (Psalm 72:18).



Right: Abraham and his wife, Pauline.



ENCOURAGING SIGNS FOR ALIYAH

“They shall walk after the LORD. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, Then His sons shall come trembling from the west” Hosea 11:10, NKJV

Operation Exodus had a prayer focus for “*Aliyah from the West*” in 2022, as we believe there will be a massive *aliyah* from the USA and other Western countries soon. We cannot force God’s hand and make Him hurry up, as there is a set time for this. But is there any indication that our year-long prayer focus has borne fruit?

It seems that God is getting ready for this set time. The new Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu has Ofir Sofer as Minister for *Aliyah* and Integration. He has said that he will put much effort into the absorption of more immigrants from Western countries, mainly the USA and France.

Ofir Sofer has met with rabbis from the USA to ask for their help to promote *aliyah* from entire communities who would move to Israel together to counteract their assimilation. He also wants to build houses in Israel that reflect the style of Western houses to attract Western *olim*. These homes would be in communities in Israel,

where the majority of their neighbours speak the same immigrant language. This would help with the initial language barrier.

He also wants to attract *olim* from the 18 - 29 age group, since they tend to be more flexible during this time of their lives. They generally find it easier to settle in Israel than older people, although many of the latter successfully do so, especially when reunited with family members.

Ofir Sofer wants to increase the financial value of the Absorption Basket (the financial help *olim* receive from the Israeli government when they arrive), as it has not been increased since 2015. He also wants to change the way Israel assists new *olim* with housing rent.

Prayer points

Lord, thank you for wonderfully answering prayer.

- ✓ Please bring many young *olim* home to Israel.
- ✓ Please bring many communities of Jewish people to make together, from the USA and France.
- ✓ Please help them by increasing the Absorption Basket.

PRAYER



PHIL LUMLEY
UK PRAYER LEADER



5-13 August
POLAND
Ebenezer Young Adults Retreat

- Visiting Auschwitz
- Organising Aliyah Transfers
- Discipleship teaching
- Cooperation with Christian and Jewish organisations

€299

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EBENEZER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Jerusalem 17-22 November 2024

Light in the Darkness
ISAIAH 60:1-2

BOOKING INFORMATION
www.ebenezer-oe.org/events





A VITAL VEHICLE

ISRAEL



JEREMY SMITH
NATIONAL COORDINATOR

At the beginning of January 2023 I drove from Jerusalem to Haifa to deliver our latest addition to Ebenezer Operation Exodus here in Israel, a used nine-seater minibus. I did not know how quickly it would be used. That night the Haifa House staff moved a family of new immigrants with much luggage to their new apartment. The family was so blessed with the support and grateful for our assistance.

Renting a vehicle for a day is prohibitively expensive. This vehicle fills a real need and will help us as we support families as they start their new life here in the Land.



Top: EOE Israel's new minibus quickly proved its worth in helping olim.

The minibus can, where necessary, transport new immigrants from the airport to Haifa House and, after staying there, to their next apartment. It will also be used to transport furniture and other resources. We may use it to deliver Passover food boxes, as in past years.

In Israel we see a shift from simply providing the first places to live to helping many with their basic human needs: furniture for new immigrants who come with very little and need beds, fridges and other practical things. This brings its challenges of storage and volunteers to help deliver various items.

It can be so difficult living in Israel that some *olim* actually give up the struggle and return to where they came from. But if we can ease the settling process for some they may be much less likely to return.

Our team is reaching out to humanitarian aid organisations in Israel to see how we might best work together to help those in need. In this way we develop a relationship with Jewish and Christian organisations and try to use all our resources effectively.

A big thank-you to those who provided financial support for the minibus. Working with those of you in the nations we fulfil God's mandate to plant the Jewish people here 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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