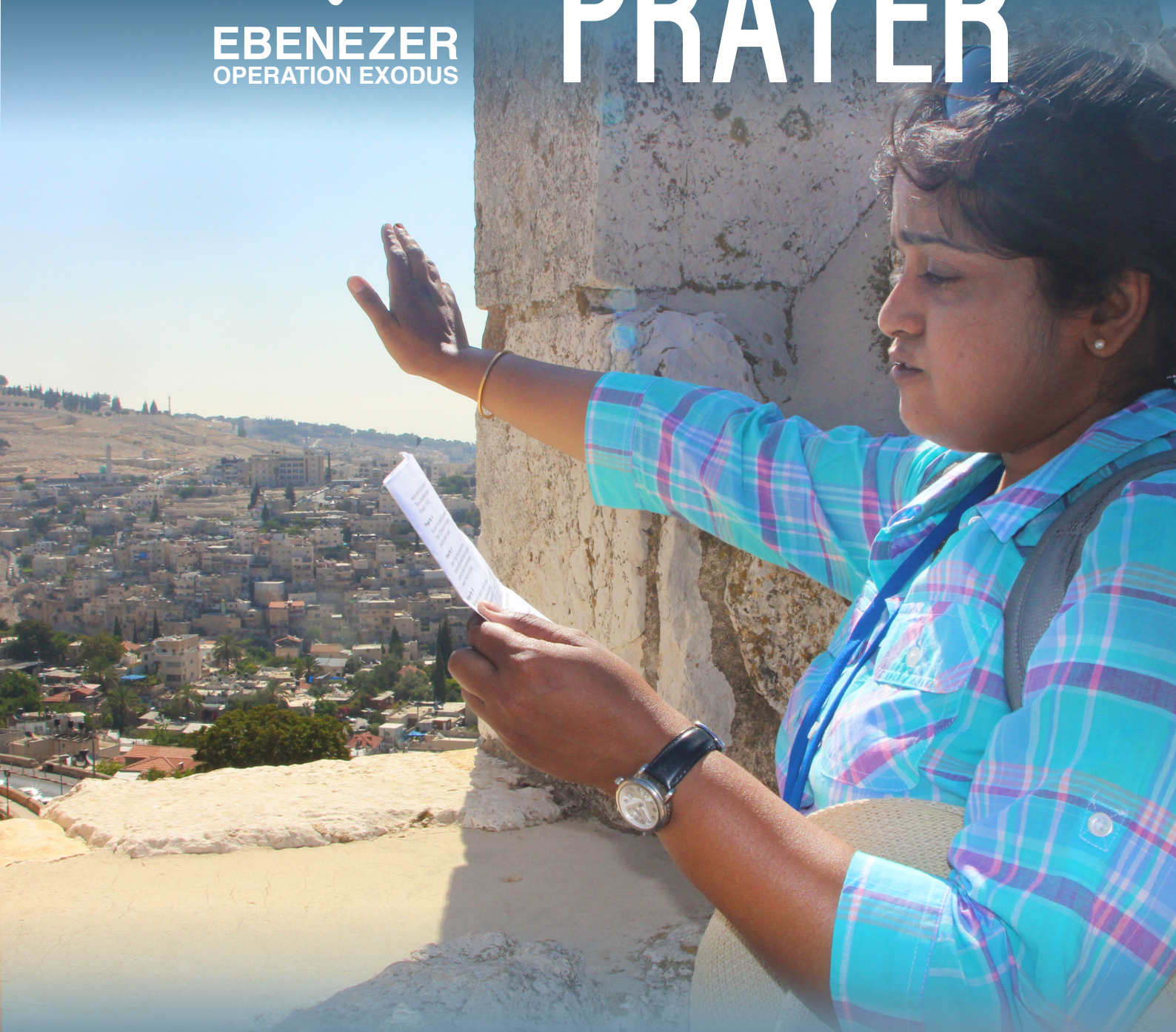




PERSISTENT IN PRAYER



“I HAVE POSTED WATCHMEN ON YOUR WALLS, O JERUSALEM; THEY WILL NEVER BE SILENT DAY OR NIGHT. YOU WHO CALL ON THE LORD, GIVE YOURSELVES NO REST, AND GIVE HIM NO REST TILL HE ESTABLISHES JERUSALEM AND MAKES HER THE PRAISE OF THE EARTH.” ISAIAH 62:6-7

A Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to Israel

PERSISTENT IN PRAYER!

... And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily... Luke 18:7-8

INTERNATIONAL



JOHANNES BARTHEL
REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Real faith, some Christians believe, requires us to only pray once; further prayer indicates we are in unbelief. However, the Word of God shows us that we must be tenacious in prayer and not give up. These are days when we need this commitment to prayer more than ever before!

Jesus emphasised this in the parable of the persistent widow: *'And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart ... And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?'* Luke 18:1-8

We can learn several essential things from this parable:

- ✓ The importance of having a lifestyle of prayer
- ✓ The requirement to be persistent in the face of difficulty
- ✓ The importance of faith
- ✓ The return of Christ and the justice of God.

It is nearly 30 years since God revealed, at a Jerusalem prayer conference, that Ebenezer Operation Exodus should begin to help the Jewish people return to Israel. There is a strong conviction in the leadership that we should continue this practical help, backed up by prayer, until He tells us to do otherwise. Our faith is in God believing that He will establish Israel as a light to the nations and a sign that He alone is God (Ezekiel 37:28). Along with this, Jesus taught us the importance of having a lifestyle of prayer with the last days especially in mind: *'...keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man'* (Luke 21:36).

Persistence in the face of difficulty is vital, for Jesus never promised us it would be a smooth ride. But He did promise us that we would not be alone, for the Holy Spirit will be with us through all the difficult situations.

Sadly, faithfulness is an undervalued characteristic in Western society. God, however, is calling us to faithfulness, the Greek word of which (*pistoteeta*), comes from *pistee*: faith. This shows us that the biblical requirement is to stay faithful in prayer until God's answer comes and His instruction to us is fulfilled. We see here that faith and faithfulness are connected. So we could say that unfaithfulness (infidelity) means literally not to keep faith.

Assisting in aliyah is not something we are involved with because it's popular at the moment and gives us a warm sense of usefulness. It is a holy and divine calling that requires effort, resources and time. It may even cause you to be rejected by those that have no understanding or revelation of God's plan for Israel. Are you prepared for that, to be involved until God directs otherwise?

Will Jesus truly find faith in operation when he returns? Will he find us busy with kingdom matters or will He find a self-centred and disobedient Church? Satan will try all he can to stop us from fulfilling God's will. His attacks and interventions can be so strong that they can cause us to give up and stop following the Lord's plans. But doing the right thing will always produce fruit. Isaiah 55:11 tells us that God's Word always achieves the purpose for which He sent it. It does not return to Him empty.

One particular strategy of the devil is to tempt us into a worldly lifestyle through not paying attention to God-centred biblical teaching and discipleship and being open to liberal interpretations of Scripture. This can lead us to a situation that the apostle Paul describes in Colossians 2:8, *'See to it that no one takes you captive*



through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.'

Instead, let's heed Hebrews 12:1-2: *'Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'*

In John 14:1-3 Jesus promised that when he went to the Father he would prepare a place for us and then return and take us to a new home in heaven. An example to us all is Abraham's demonstration of faith (Hebrews 11:8-10) when he went

out not knowing where he was going, but trusting in God to lead him.

Jesus wants us to pray for His return (Revelation 22:20) and work for it. Peter tells us that our works here on earth can influence the timing of Messiah's return (2 Peter 3:12). The aliyah of the Jewish people is probably the most visible sign that the Lord's return is not far away! And when He returns He will come to judge with justice. Nothing will be hidden. For the present we suffer under the injustice and godlessness of this world, but soon divine justice will rule and *shalom* (peace) will cover the earth!

So let us not grow weary in our prayers and work for the aliyah, but rather proclaim every day: Lord come soon and may your kingdom be established in your holy city, Jerusalem, in Israel, your chosen nation!

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.

Klith 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).



Top: A young family who made aliyah from Pyatigorsk earlier this year.
Left: A family from Moldova who we helped to make aliyah.

MAKING ISRAEL HIS HOME!

RUSSIA/ISRAEL



DANIELLE MOR
DIRECTOR FOR CHRISTIAN
FRIENDS AND VICE PRESIDENT,
ISRAEL AND GLOBAL
PHILANTHROPY FOR THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL

Danielle Mor of the Jewish Agency in Israel is a great friend of Ebenezer. She shared with us the story of Eugene who was born and brought up in the Russian Far East:

'I was born in 1987 in Khabarovsk in the Far East of Russia, even though my family was originally from Ukraine. My grandparents had been offered employment in Khabarovsk with the promise that it would only be for a short time. In reality, because they were Jewish the Soviet government wanted to move them and all Jews to the Far East to get them out of the way. My grandparents, however, believed the story and just lived out of suitcases, expecting that soon they would go back to their family in Ukraine. The years passed and, of course, the move back never materialised. They are buried there in the village of Kavalerovo.

In 1986 my parents were married and a year later I was born. I eventually graduated from high school and then university, qualifying in law. I had always been interested in my family's Jewish connection and put together a detailed family tree, visiting

distant relatives in the former Soviet Union to piece the story together.

It was while I was in Israel on a Taglit young people's tour that I visited Yad Vashem (the Holocaust museum) and was shocked at the way my people had been treated. Not just my people, the Jews, but my own relatives, including children as young as four who had been murdered by the Nazis. When I looked at their photos, a chill came over me. But with it a strong sense that I wanted to do something to strengthen this country of Israel as had it existed then, there would have been a safe haven for my relatives.

The more I learned, the more significant Israel became to me and the more I wanted to make it my home, not just because of an emotional attachment but also because I wanted my own children to have a different life, to live in a place where the government really cares about its citizens. And now we are here living in Netanya by the sea and we are full of expectation for our new life!

Danielle writes: On behalf of the Jewish Agency for Israel, thank you Ebenezer for all your support.



Eugene on arrival in Israel (left) and enjoying life there with his family (right).





REUNITED WITH THEIR SON

Anatoly and Anna were looking forward to meeting up with their only son, Alexander, and his family and making a new life in Israel.

In 2013 we were privileged to help Alexander, his wife and two children to make aliyah. They settled happily in Akko and were very happy. Now all these years on, it was time for Anatoly and Anna to make the move but it was complicated by the fact that Anna had undergone major surgery for cancer followed by chemotherapy. So Alexander came from Israel to Moldova to help his parents prepare and accompany them on their journey to Israel.

They were extremely grateful to Ebenezer for the support they were given. We paid for the urgent processing of their documents at the Visas and Registration

Department and for the issue of their Certificate of Good Conduct, which is always required by the Israeli authorities.

May the Lord restore Anna to good health and bless them in the land of promise!



MOLDOVA



PAVEL & LINA
MOLDOVA LEADERS

*Top: Akko Israel
Left: Anatoly, Anna
and Alexander.*

‘A PART OF OUR FAMILY!’

We took 12 olim belonging to two families to join a special charter flight to Israel. What a privilege!

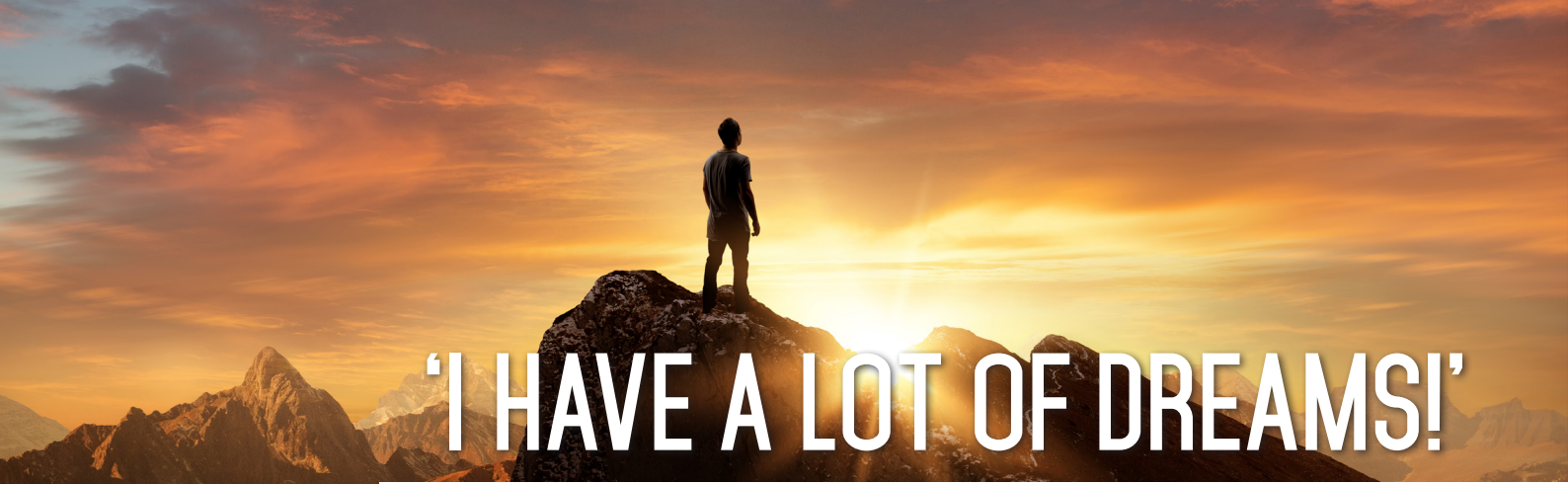
The flight was going to take place early in the morning so Pavel drove the olim to the airport during the night. No one had expected any flights to Israel to be organised then so it happened very suddenly and the olim had to get ready rather quickly.

They had been expecting to leave on an earlier flight but that had been cancelled due to the pandemic. The parents had given up their jobs, of course, and suddenly couldn't leave Moldova, so they had no income to provide for their families. Ebenezer stepped in with funds to help them and they were overjoyed at this expression of love from Christians. As they were saying goodbye to our

team, one of the fathers said: ‘You are more than a friend to our family...We consider you actually a part of our family!’



*One of the
families we helped*



'I HAVE A LOT OF DREAMS!'

RUSSIA

It is such a joy and privilege for us to be able to continue to help Jewish people. Here is the testimony of one man we helped with transportation to the airport.



BORIS VASYUKOV
RUSSIA NATIONAL
DIRECTOR

'I'm starting a new life here and I want to try something new,' said David, who was absolutely thrilled at arriving in Israel. This is how he came to make aliyah:

He had known about his Jewish heritage since he was a child because he used to attend a club in the local Jewish community, but only found out three years ago that he would be able to make aliyah. He read an article on the internet and that kick-started investigations into his eligibility.

Happily, he found that his parents had kept all the family documents and this led to him finding out more about his family. He even went to another city and met some distant relatives he hadn't seen before. 'Now I have photographs of family members from long ago and even documents from the 19th century such as my great-grandfather's birth certificate!' he enthused.

On arriving in Israel, David had to spend some time in quarantine but he was



very upbeat about the experience: 'The room is small but I have the amazing gift of a view of the Mediterranean! I just cannot wait to go out and have a swim. To me, Israel is my historic homeland. I feel so connected with it and I have a lot of dreams. I'm starting a new life here and want to try something new.'

David was very grateful for the help that had been given him. 'While I was getting my documents together and preparing for my aliyah application and consular appointment I received a lot of help from some amazing people. First of all I want to thank the Jewish Agency in Moscow, then the Christian guys that helped me at the hotel and the airport. For the first time in my life I feel the State is on my side, my new State, the State of Israel. The State that I already feel is my home!'



David's view of the Mediterranean during quarantine.

BABY TWINS MAKE ALIYAH!

Twins Vladimir and Varvara were born this past June and in August became the youngest olim we have assisted to make aliyah! They arrived in the Promised Land with their parents, Andrei and Xenia, and brother Ivan.

The family came from a village near the Ukraine city of Dnepropetrovsk. Andrei had been aware of his Jewish ancestry all his adult life but had never really attached much importance to it until Ivan was born. He then realised that he wanted a better future for him and began to think in earnest about making aliyah.

Andrei is a professional basketball player. After finishing high school he signed his first contract with a club and travelled extensively around Europe playing for the team.

In 2019 the couple learned that Xenia was expecting twins and the issue of making aliyah came once more to the forefront of their minds. So this past March they submitted their documents to the Israeli consul for an initial appraisal which went well. As Xenia was well on with the pregnancy, the

consul advised them to give birth to the twins in Ukraine and then come back for their visas. Andrei also received an offer from the Israeli Maccabi basketball team to play for them when he got to Israel.

But while they were waiting, the Israeli government brought in new regulations for the aliyah of fourth generation Jews (like Andrei's children) and so the family needed more paperwork. This entailed a six-hour trip to Kiev to have the children's documents notarised in compliance with the new laws and meant renting a flat in the city. The Ebenezer team prayed that no obstacles would hinder them all from going to Israel. That prayer was truly answered when Andrei, Xenia, Ivan and tiny twins Vladimir and Varvara were booked on a flight to Tel Aviv in August. Their safe arrival in Israel to start a new life was a dream come true!

'We are so grateful for the support and encouragement Ebenezer gave us', Andrei said. 'May you help as many Jewish people as possible. Thank you.'

UKRAINE



TATIANA
UKRAINE REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE



Top: Andrei, Xenia and baby twins Vladimir and Varvara leaving for Israel.
Left: Loading up for the journey to the airport for the aliyah flight.

WHEN OUR AGENDAS WERE HALTED

BURKINA FASO



ABRAHAM MILLOGO
BURKINA FASO NATIONAL
COORDINATOR

God's Word tells us to be fearless when the world is turned upside down (Psalm 46: 2). In Burkina Faso 2020 started with a busy schedule of activities in our churches, including projects to move forward. Then everything was halted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

No longer able to visit churches or organise intercessory sessions for groups of people, we enthusiastically launched a teaching and prayer bulletin via social networks, especially WhatsApp. To our great satisfaction, this newsletter has been appreciated by hundreds of people but more importantly we have been able to reach brothers and sisters that we do not know, because our correspondents in turn send the newsletter to others. Those who do not follow our broadcasts on the radio can now read us anytime and anywhere via the social network, even outside our country.

We praise the Lord for also making it possible for us to start an intercessory

activity in Côte-d'Ivoire with a handful of people. We strongly believe that the Lord will make this a successful endeavour. Again because it was not possible to meet physically, He has enabled us to teach Burkinabé believers through a Zoom link-up.

Another blessing came when we prayed for the relocation of our office: a friend kindly provided us with free space for a year in his building located in a quiet area, in contrast to the place we moved from in a commercial zone not conducive to reflection and intercession, which is so essential to our work. God be praised!

So we press on, encouraged by more of His Word, including Psalm 46:6-7: 'Nations are troubled, kingdoms are shaken: he utters his voice, and the earth fails. The Lord, the master of the universe, is with us, the God of Jacob is a fortress for us.'





ALIYAH AMIDST RESTRICTIONS

“For behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the LORD. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.” Jeremiah 30:3

We are grateful for our God’s faithfulness as he continues to show that His Word

cannot be restrained. Aliyah continues in the midst of health controls in South American nations! Such cases are olim from Uruguay and humanitarian aid to Jewish families in need in Córdoba region where anti-Semitism is growing in the midst of currency devaluation and travelling restrictions. Please pray with us for more aliyah from South America.

SOUTH AMERICA



ENRIQUE PORRAS
REGIONAL COORDINATOR



THE PUSH TO ISRAEL

Economic problems and business betrayal led to a Chilean family deciding that their future was in Israel.

Hans and Deborah had four children and for some years had been aware of the possibility of making aliyah as several members of Deborah’s family already live in Israel, but serious financial problems played a key part in the decision to join them. The other reason was what happened to Hans in his business dealings. He had

started an enterprise but subsequently found that a person within his family had cheated him. A new business was started but again betrayal led to its collapse.

These traumatic experiences were the push that caused the family to leave Chile and make a new start in Israel. With Ebenezer’s assistance, they obtained their visas and are now building their new life. May God bless them in the Land and fulfil their dreams.

CHILE/ISRAEL



DANIELA MARKWALDER
MEXICO TEAM



Hans and Deborah with two of their children departing Santiago airport and arriving safely at Ben Gurion airport some 24hrs later.



UK

We recently assisted an Orthodox Jewish family on their journey home from the UK to Israel.

However, a sudden job offer in London caused a change of plan. Later they contacted us again: Yossi's latest job had finished, so did our original offer of help still stand? Yes it did: they were being called home!



ROD LANGSTON
UK TRUSTEE

Yossi and Sarah first contacted us through our website when they were living in Scotland and were subsequently visited by David and Marion Currie. Yossi had been working at a university but his employment was coming to an end. They expressed a desire to return to Israel but because they were returning Israelis rather than olim hadash (new immigrants), they were not entitled to the usual benefits offered to those making aliyah, including the free flight. Having heard their story, a prayerful decision was made for Ebenezer to assist.

Our London and the South-East team sprang into action and, headed by Mark Galliers, supplied the family with 20 suitcases to start packing. We covered the family's flight costs and on 13th August vehicles driven by Mark, John C and John F took the family of eight to Luton airport.

They were grateful for all we had done.

Top: Some of the UK team ready to help the family with their luggage to the airport. Right: Yossi and Sarah with their young family outside their London home just before making aliyah.



EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS

BE READY
ONLINE CONFERENCE 2020
M E S S A G E S

To see the messages from our recent conference, go to **YouTube** and search for the '**Ebenezer Operation Exodus**' channel



CALL TO INTERCESSION

Ebenezer Operation Exodus was born during a prayer conference in Jerusalem where the Lord revealed that the time had come to help the Jewish people making aliyah. So intercession is the hallmark of what we do, but let's look at what exactly intercession is:

The verb to intercede comes from Latin and is composed of two words, inter which means in the middle – to stand in between – and *cedere* which means to go. It is to interpose oneself and to go between, to come before God in supplication for the benefit of others. The basis of intercession is identification. Love is behind all intercession as we can only identify with the suffering of those we love.

The ultimate intercessor is Jesus Christ who, by dying on the cross in our stead, stood between us and the Father (Isaiah 53:6,12).

God seeks intercessors but He does not always find them: *'So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one'* (Ezekiel 22:30).

He is calling all believers to intercession because it is His desire to make His whole Church a house of prayer. We find an example of this in Acts chapter 12 where the whole assembly (not only those who had an aptitude for intercession) was praying for Peter, who was in prison (Acts 12:5). Intercession makes God move and even change His mind (Exodus 32:14)!

Until all God's goals are fulfilled and His assembly becomes a corporate body of intercession, just a man, one person, willing to stand in the gap, can make the difference! Are you willing to be that man, that woman?

PRAYER



MICHELA MOROTTI
ITALY PRAYER COORDINATOR

If you would like to become a prayer partner and receive our prayer materials, please email prayer@ebenezer-ef.org

RICHARD ZEVENHUIZEN: A DEDICATED LIFE

Richard Zevenhuizen, Dutch National Coordinator, passed into the Lord's presence on 19th August. Even though the sickness that brought his dedicated life to an end was taking a heavy toll, the Lord miraculously gave Richard new energy each time it was needed for leading Ebenezer in the Netherlands.

Richard, who was able to spend his last months on earth at home being cared for by Janet, his beloved wife, was involved with Ebenezer since its birth in 1991. This included three months in eastern Siberia helping the team seek out Jewish families. In 2002 he and Janet went on a prayer trip aboard a ship from Odessa to Haifa and back. After that Richard joined the Dutch Ebenezer Board, becoming Chairman in 2008 and National Coordinator in 2009. Internationally, Richard had many friends in the Ebenezer family,

who really appreciated him for his love and dedication. He will be missed by many.

On the Board we got to know Richard as someone who kept a sharp focus on Israel and our work with the olim. He was also constantly looking at how the board members could grow in unity and spiritual maturity. He was totally dedicated to Ebenezer's work.



NETHERLANDS



HENK VERSTEEG
CHAIRMAN
NETHERLANDS BOARD

*Richard and Janet
in Jerusalem.*

HOUSE OF REFUGE

ISRAEL



JEREMY SMITH
ISRAEL NATIONAL
COORDINATOR

Ebenezer's Haifa House has still been receiving new immigrants even during lockdown. Because of the coronavirus restrictions many have lost their jobs, so Haifa House has become a refuge as people seek to find their way in Israel. It recently became home for a Russian family, an Argentinian lady and Frederico. They stayed there with Marcus and Rahel who run the house and their family. Here is the edited letter Frederico wrote:

'I am 29 years old and was born and raised in Montevideo, Uruguay. In 2015 my humanitarian concerns began with the migrant crisis in Greece and I felt I needed to do something.

I worked as a publicist but wasn't satisfied because I had different concerns. I began doing theatre and clowning and discovered medical clowning, a milestone in my life. After three years as a volunteer and paid artist, I applied for a scholarship and came to Israel to work under the wing of the Dream Doctors Project as a medical clown across the country.

I went back to Uruguay and decided to have my own medical clowning project and street performance as a way of gathering funds for a NGO (non-governmental, non-profit-making organisation). I had my proposals, my interviews. Then Covid-19 hit and everything I was working for vanished.

Frederico (right) is finding fulfilment in Israel.

I had to redefine my goals. That's when I decided to use my ability with English and become a teacher in the language. I saw an advert for a Tel Aviv TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) programme which would enable me to continue with my path of humanitarian aid through language teaching. I was given four scholarships and a letter of recommendation from the Minister of Education and Culture of Uruguay.

I am grateful to Ebenezer for helping me to begin my new path. I found a place where I met lovely people, volunteers and olim. Marcus and Rahel welcomed me from my first day. We are all under the same roof, working towards creating a new life in Eretz (Land of) Israel. I feel blessed because I found my first home in Israel and I will always remember it.'



Our vision is to be servants and intercessors of the Lord, to help the Jewish people return to the land of Israel from all the nations and to proclaim God's Kingdom purposes for their return.

All articles in this publication Copyright © Ebenezer Emergency Fund International November 2020.
Operation Exodus is the operational part of Ebenezer Emergency Fund International.
Started in 1991 with just three people, it now has representatives in 50 countries worldwide.



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