



**EBENEZER**  
OPERATION EXODUS

# FROM AID TO ALIYAH

**F**or many years our bases in the countries of the Former Soviet Union have been involved in practical support of Jewish communities not only in making aliyah, but also in providing their daily needs. A number of our annual aid projects open doors to hundreds of Jewish families previously unreachable.

One of the most exciting is visiting Holocaust survivors with a food parcel during an event in May called Victory Day. It is so humbling to see the tears of our dear friends and to hear their gratitude, not so much for the gift, but for the fact that we actually visited them. It tells them that they are not forgotten.

Every year we bless about 400 Holocaust survivors with a food parcel and support a soup kitchen for elderly Jewish people in Uman, Ukraine. A hot meal may sound something common for most people, but for someone who is so old and weak they can't cook for themselves a plate of hot soup, potato and meat is indeed precious.

Our winter projects include shoes, clothes and vitamins for Jewish children. The most joyful one is giving Hanukkah food parcels. This gives us the opportunity to tell hundreds of Jewish

families about aliyah. In doing so we become friends to many of them!

Svetlana from Kiev had to battle with a number of problems on her way to Israel, the last one, a point-blank "No" to aliyah from her Jewish parents. Svetlana did not dare to argue with them. But the breakthrough came from a totally unexpected direction. Back in December 2015, Gian Luca and Michela Morotti from Italy visited Jewish families in Ukraine for Hanukkah. Among the young families they met at one of the Jewish community centres we had been invited to were Svetlana, husband Alexei and their two children.

Alexei himself wasn't interested in making aliyah but that day the Lord miraculously touched his heart and gave him a love for Israel. To Svetlana's amazement, Alexei became her strongest supporter of moving to the Promised Land. It was Alexei who made an appointment with the Israeli consul 18 months after that key meeting during Hanukkah, resulting in the family finally making aliyah.

Now they celebrate Hanukkah in their own land, Israel, a miracle of Hanukkah in their own lives!



**VADIM RABOCHIY**  
EASTERN EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
COORDINATOR

*Top: Helping a family making aliyah from Uzbekistan.*

*Bottom: Families receiving aid parcels at Hanukkah & Holocaust survivors being blessed with a good meal.*



# ‘YOU SAY LITTLE BUT DO A LOT!’

RUSSIA

**“You come to our aid when we suffer from lack of food”** said the head of the Jewish community. It was a moving moment when Mark, leader of the Shalom Jewish Community expressed his gratitude to our Ebenezer team. We had shared about the need for financial support in a number of local churches and encouraged them to raise funds for the Jewish community and it had not fallen on deaf ears.

It was wonderful to know we were so appreciated and a privilege that God allowed us to help the Jewish people.



ARTHUR  
PYATIGORSK LEADER

Ebenezer, together with the local churches, had provided Jewish people with humanitarian aid: food, medicine and whatever else they needed. Mark said, *“There are people that speak many words but do little... where-as you say little but do a lot. I am proud of you! You come to our aid when we suffer from lack of food, when we are sick and more importantly when we make aliyah!”*



RUSSIA

## AID MAKES A BIG IMPACT



KONSTANTIN & ALYONA  
KHABAROVSK LEADERS

**G**iving humanitarian aid to Jewish families in the vast Russian Far East region has made such a difference to their lives.

Through this ongoing work families are given food parcels and Holocaust survivors provided with much needed medicines. Some of these families we visited had members who were either sick, disabled or very old. A young Jewish mother was provided with nappies for her newborn son. It was such a blessing to provide them with what they needed.

In Khabarovsk in May there was a consular reception for potential olim from all over the region and 44 came to submit their documents for processing or to pick up their visas – all of them intending to have made aliyah by the end of this year.





# OPENING ALIYAH DOOR

**Providing school stationery and medicine is a good way to reach out to those needing to hear about aliyah.**

Eight Jewish families in the Khabarovsk region were provided with humanitarian aid in the form of school stationery. Many families struggle financially when it comes to the new school year and this can be a good opportunity to make contact, provide gifts for school and talk about the possibility of moving to Israel.

Some families also have children with disabilities and others are looking after the elderly. Both categories of people have a need for medicine and very often cannot afford it. Again, we have seen the Lord open doors through the provision of finance for medicine and also through food parcels.

Eleven families were visited in Khabarovsk and three in Vladivostok. We shared about repatriation programmes with every family and study programmes with those with teenagers. It was seed that we are sure will bear fruit in time!



KONSTANTIN & ALYONA  
Khabarovsk Leaders

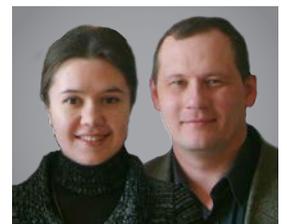
## BACK TO SCHOOL

**Many parents in the former Soviet Union find the beginning of the school year a particularly challenging time as the need for new clothes, stationery and books can be more than many can afford. This is especially true if a family has more than one child. So in Moldova assisting with the necessary items is a wonderful way of contacting Jewish families and sharing about the opportunities available for youngsters in Israel and the possibility of aliyah.**

We arranged to take some of the families shopping. It was an exciting time for the children and young people because they were able to choose the things they needed. They and their parents were extremely grateful to us.

Two of the young people, Denis and Eugene, came to our office with their

father before the shopping trip. The father didn't know anything about the study programmes available for the boys in Israel and was very interested to hear more!



PAVEL & LINA  
Moldova Leaders

# OUR ONGOING PROJECTS

SOME OF THE AID PROJECTS WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT ARE:

## SHOES, CLOTHING AND BLANKETS

Many Jewish families cannot afford the means to keep warm in the harsh winter months in the former Soviet Union. They are so grateful for the warm winter clothes, shoes and blankets we provide them with.



## MEDICINES FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Most of these survivors, and other elderly Jewish people, suffer from chronic ill-health and cannot afford the medicines they need on their meagre pensions. When we bring them what they need they are comforted to know they are not forgotten.

## FOOD PARCELS

Our food parcels distribution to needy Jewish people of all ages is also a means of giving them hope for a new and better life in Israel as we share about making aliyah. The giving of food parcels during Hanukkah is a special blessing to them.

## REPLACEMENT TRANSPORT

Our teams travel many thousands of miles each year across the former Soviet Union. This travel is especially challenging in vast and demanding regions such as Siberia. An ongoing need is replacement of the older, much-used vehicles as they become harder to properly maintain.



## HELP IN ISRAEL

Those who 'return' to Israel can find a warm welcome at our Jerusalem office and help from the team to enable them to settle in the Land. We provide, where necessary, comfort, food parcels, useful addresses and other assistance.



## YOUTH ALIYAH

We support two centres in Israel, Yemin Orde Youth Village and Aloney Yitzhak, who help young immigrants from many nations, including Ethiopia, integrate and become fulfilled citizens of Israel.

## BNEI MENASHE

Descendants of the Lost Tribe of the Bnei Menashe are being brought back to Israel from India. We are financially supporting a Jewish organisation, Shavei Israel, in this remarkable work and our team in India is involved in it.

## ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH

We are supporting another Jewish organisation, Keren Hayesod, in bringing home the remaining Ethiopian Jews to Israel. At present the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel numbers around 140,000.



**Ebenezer Operation Exodus International & UK Office**  
PO Box 9103, Bournemouth  
BH1 9DA, UK  
+44 (0) 1202 294455  
enquiries@ebenezer-ef.org  
www.operation-exodus.org



**Ebenezer Operation Exodus Asia Pacific**  
15 Park Rd, Seven Hills  
NSW 2147, Australia  
Phone: +61 2 9838 7778  
office@eoeaspac.org  
www.eoeaspac.org



**Ebenezer Emergency Fund New Zealand**  
P.O. Box 5319, Terrace End  
Palmerston North 4441  
Phone: + 64 (0) 6 3574883  
newzealand@ebenezer-ef.org  
www.eoeaspac.org



**Ebenezer Operation Exodus Singapore**  
10 Anson Rd  
#24-09 International Plaza  
Singapore 079903  
Phone: +65 9837 1320  
mail@eoes.org.sg  
www.eoeaspac.org



**Operation Exodus Canada East**  
P O Box 51011 Milton Central PO  
Milton, ON L9T 2P2  
Canada  
Phone: 289 408 9775  
opexcanadaeast@gmail.com  
www.operationexodus.ca



**Operation Exodus Canada West**  
(National Business Office)  
Unit #456 7184-120th Street  
Surrey, BC V3W 0M6, Canada  
Phone: 604 583 7261  
operationexodusoffice@gmail.com  
www.operationexodus.ca



**Operation Exodus USA**  
PO Box 568 Lancaster  
NY 14086  
Phone: 716 681 6300  
info@operationexodususa.org  
www.operationexodususa.org



**Operation Exodus South Africa**  
PO Box 61887, Vaalpark,  
1948 South Africa  
Phone: +27 169 711 766  
southafrica@ebenezer-ef.org  
www.operation-exodus.org