



EZRA NEWS

RESCUE | RETURN | RESTORE

AND HE WILL LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE NATIONS, AND WILL ASSEMBLE THE BANISHED ONES OF ISRAEL, AND WILL GATHER THE DISPERSED OF JUDAH FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH. ISAIAH 11:12

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www.ezrainternational.org

Standing with God's Promises



Andrey's family before their flight to Israel.

As you stand up today to help Ezra International bring Jewish people home to Israel, you partner in God's promises to His children. Many of the people we help in the former Soviet Union only have to look at their own family tree to see the horrors of violent anti-Semitism in the past. And sadly, anti-Semitism continues even to this day.

Yet God calls on Christians to extend a hand of help and friendship to the Jewish people. As you support Ezra International, you become His servant as He fulfills His word in Isaiah 49:22: *"I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in their arms"* (NKJV)

We recently helped Andrey, his wife and children and Andrey's grandmother as they prepared to make *aliyah*, the long-promised return to Israel. They left the city of Aleksandriya in central Ukraine, where Andrey grew up.

Sadly, much of Andrey's extended family was murdered in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, not long after the Nazis captured the city in September 1941. Altogether, at least 33,771 Jewish people lost their lives at Babi Yar in Kiev.

Andrey has always felt a deep connection to his Jewish heritage. He has been instrumental in honoring Jewish

history and life in Aleksandriya. Andrey helped establish a Jewish community center there and organized the construction of a monument to Holocaust victims from the region. Andrey also gathered information from government and synagogue archives, along with the testimony of survivors, to compile a list of Jewish individuals killed in and around Aleksandriya during the Second World War.

Ezra International's teams helped Andrey's family gather the documents they needed to prove their Jewish heritage so they could receive their Israeli visas. We coordinated their transport to the airport when they made *aliyah* in late 2011..

"I am very grateful to the representatives and sponsors of Ezra International for the help that I had with documents for getting our Israeli visas, and for transportation to the airport," Andrey told us. "Let G-d help you with health, protection, and support in every way in your noble mission: the return of the Jewish

people. I wish that G-d's protection be over all of us."

Thank you for your financial support--the needs of Jewish families living in the former USSR are great as they prepare to return to the Promised Land, and through your generous assistance, Ezra's teams can help meet those needs. All glory to God!



Andrey's relatives lost their lives at Babi Yar.

Editor's Note: Names changed to protect privacy.

OUR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY:

Bridges for Peace Ministry to Israel Zion Ministries Father's House Chesed International

Ezra News

A Newsletter of Ezra International

Volume 12, Number 1

Mel Hoelzle
President/Founder

Barry Wagner
Vice President

Ezra News updates our partners and friends with the latest news and information about Ezra International's teams worldwide as we rescue, return, and restore the Jewish people to their God-promised homeland of Israel.

Please call 352.394.4673 or email us at info@ezrausa.org with comments and questions, to update your mailing address, or to request a copy of Ezra News for a friend.

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Ezra News

An Unbelieving Generation

A WORD FROM BARRY

BY REV. GARY CRISTOFARO

In Jesus' day, a group of unbelieving scribes and Pharisees asked for a sign as proof of His legitimacy. Jesus said that the only sign they would be given was the sign of the prophet Jonah. *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so would the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"* (Matthew 12:40 NKJV). By fulfilling this sign, Jesus proved God's faithfulness to His word; He also proved His own Messianic credentials for all generations.

Two thousand years later, history is replete with signs of God's perpetual mercy and faithfulness. Once again, the validity of these signs is ignored by a largely unbelieving generation. One of the most miraculous signs of God's faithfulness in all of history has been the rebirth of the modern state of Israel. Speaking about Israel, former prime minister Golda Meir said, "This country exists as the fulfillment of a promise made by God Himself. It would be ridiculous to ask it to account for its legitimacy." Yet, the nations of the world do just that almost daily.

This generation is also privileged to witness the ongoing sign of the return of the Jewish people to Israel from all the nations where they have been scattered. The prophet Isaiah foretold that God would *"... assemble the outcasts of Israel, and the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth"* (Isaiah 11:12 NKJV). There are literally hundreds of similar prophecies in the scriptures. Thus, *aliyah* is one of the most well documented and glaringly obvious signs to this generation of God's faithfulness.

"A Call to Action... Helping the Jewish People"

Just over seventy years ago, many ignored the horrific signs of anti-Semitism that led to some of the darkest days of human history. Sadly, this generation is witness to those signs again. But this time, may these signs be God's call to action for His people. Today, Christians can help Jewish people who have yet to return to the only place they can truly call home. Golda Meir also identified this fact when she said, "Above all, this country is our own. Nobody has to get up in the morning and worry what his neighbors think of him. Being a Jew is no problem here."

As followers of Jesus, let us heed His call to bless His brethren. After all, He revealed to us that He is looking for a sign, also: *"[W]hen the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8b NKJV). May the Holy One of Israel Bless You!

Editor's Note: Rev. Cristofaro recently joined Ezra International's staff, sharing Ezra's vision with congregations in the United States. He has participated in "fishing trips" in Ukraine with Rev. Barry Wagner, Ezra vice president, and he regularly leads tours to Israel for Christians.

'A Vision for All Christians' Bringing God's Children Home



During the past few months, Ezra International has begun using an updated logo on our Internet and print publications that reflects the organization's vision of God's bringing home the Jewish people from around the world. Ezra president Mel Hoelzle explains the logo's significance to the Lord's good intentions toward the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: "Ezra's new logo of the wheel above the earth is similar to the vision I received in 1987 from the Lord. I saw a huge wheel spinning, with lights and rays coming down to earth. Then in the vision, a large group of people appeared and I heard 'These are your Jewish brothers and sisters, who you will be helping go to Israel.' In 1995, the day came when we were called to start the work of Ezra International, helping needy Jewish people from the former Soviet Union to return to Israel. We believe this is a vision for all Christians that GOD has called to be a blessing to Israel. For every Jewish person you help make *aliyah* (immigration) to Israel, you are working with GOD in fulfilling Bible prophecy and blessing Israel. Thank you for your continuing support, both through prayer and financially."

God promised through the prophet Isaiah that He would call upon the Gentiles to bring His children back to Israel: *"And He will lift up a standard for the nations [the Gentiles] and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth"* (Isaiah 11:12 NASU). The Almighty is fulfilling His Word in our time, bringing honor to His Name as He brings His children back to the Promised Land.

"These Are Your Jewish Brothers and Sisters"

Rescuing. Returning. Restoring.



Aliyah: The Return Continues

Ezra Helps as Jewish Families Move to Israel in Great Numbers

God continues to bless the Body of Christ with so many wonderful opportunities to be a special blessing to our Jewish brothers and sisters. One of the greatest ways to bless the Jewish families and individuals still living in the Diaspora--outside of Israel--is to assist them in their "Return Home" to the Promised Land.

There is a misconception floating around among some Christians and even in the Jewish community that *aliyah*, the return of the Jewish to Israel, is almost over--but nothing can be further from the truth. In fact, during the past year to eighteen months, the number of Jewish people arriving in Israel has increased.

Below are just a few statistics of the number of Jewish immigrants assisted by Ezra International during the last 60 days:

Ukraine	334	Azerbaijan	23
Russia	106	Uzbekistan	36
Georgia	40	Moldovia	27

This is a total of 566 people from just six of the 14 countries where we work. At present Ezra International is working with 36,593 additional Jewish people in those countries as they are preparing to immigrate to Israel in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. No sooner do we return families and individuals home to Israel when new ones enter our system seeking assistance.

Ezra International has been assisting in the return of the Jewish people for over 16 years, and there is no end in sight as long as the doors remain open for their departure from the countries of the former Soviet Union. If anyone tells you that *aliyah* is over, you can tell them with confidence that it isn't over until the God of Israel says it is over. Please continue to pray for the doors of legal immigration to remain open as long as possible for the Jewish families of those countries of the former USSR.



Blessings Flow as We Bless God's People

Editor's Note:

God promises us in Genesis 12:3 that if we bless His people He will bless us. Here is a story from Canada of such blessings.

Dear Rev. Roy Trepanier,

Our Precept Bible Study group has spent the last several years studying the books of Kings and Chronicles along with the prophets. This study has given me a real love for God's chosen people and a desire to see them return to Israel. I had been unable to see how I could have any part in their return. I was thrilled to find out my little gift could help prophecy come true.

Earlier this year I had a prophetic message spoken over me that God was about to open the flood gates of heaven and pour out His blessings on our family. I have been living in expectation ever since. We have a small baking business, selling baked goods at several farmers' markets.

The Sunday you were at our church I of course gave a donation wondering what would become of God's promise for prosperity. Shortly after that Sunday our clothes dryer which had not worked properly for four months suddenly started to work correctly and continues to do so. About a week later I received a phone call from a man who said his wife bought a pie from us and he was wondering where we got our supplies. He works for a company that sells baking supplies and he was sure he could save us some money. The savings were amazing. I'm positive God's hand was in this, especially when I realized the name of his company was "Prosperity Foods." God really has a sense of humor.

God is so good. These blessings are wonderful but they are not the reason I am sending you this gift. My love for God and His people and the excitement I feel when I see Bible prophecy being fulfilled is what motivates me.

May God continue to bless Ezra in its mission.

Barbara
Lindsay, Ontario Canada

**"Bible Prophecy
Being Fulfilled Is
What Motivates Me"**

Instant Info: Modern day Israel is not the Israel of the Bible. It is only part of the land God promised to the Jewish people.



Ezra's Center for Abused Children Opens in Kiev



Child abuse is a terrible problem in Ukraine and, unlike in the West, there are not the services to remove children from unsafe homes. Some time ago the Director of Social Services for Kiev, a Christian man, asked Ezra International if we could set up a center for abused children with his help. The concept is a first for Ukraine.

The Center was opened June 2011 and since that time we have helped more than 80 children. We employ only trained Christian staff, with two social workers and two psychologists who work in shifts to immediately respond to emergency calls. On arrival at a home, they assess the situation--if

they feel the child needs to be removed they call the police who verify this and the child is taken to the Center. The children arrive at the Center very traumatized, but the staff works with them with great love and care.

At any one time since opening the Center, we have had ten children living there receiving help. One such child is 10-year-old Kiril, pictured above. He was living in an apartment full of alcoholic adults. One night the Center got a call from Kiril's grandmother, who was drunk herself, saying she feared for the safety of her grandson. Our staff took him to the Center and he loves it there.



Sisters Lilia and Yula are living at the Center because of abuse from their alcoholic, drug-addicted mother. Another little girl, Alyona, 6 years old, lived in an apartment with drug addicts and alcoholics. Our team counted around 30 people sleeping in the apartment. After Alyona came to the Center, our team was able to get her into "The Ark," a small Christian home for children.

We also work with parents whenever possible to see if they can change so that the child can live at home. Alyona's father is changing his way of life. We have a soccer team made up of grown-up children who had been in a government shelter for youth, and Alyona's father is part of that team. He attends church and hopes one day to take care of his daughter at home.

To support our work with abused children, please send your financial gifts to: **Ezra International, P.O. Box 120926 Clermont, FL 34712-0926**

From Ezra's Mailbag

It is always such a blessing to receive letters from the many Jewish people Ezra International has assisted in their return to Israel. It is only your continuing financial gifts that make their new lives possible.

Thank You Ezra!

I am very grateful to Ezra International and its donors for the financial help given to me to pay for documents necessary for leaving for Israel. It is said dreams come true!! These are words from a song! My dream to leave for such a wonderful country, Israel, is very close to realization thanks to your help. During three years since the moment when I started gathering documents for repatriation I have gratefully remembered financial and spiritual support of Ezra Fund and especially Nadezhda, Ezra's representative, to me. I am very grateful to those who participated and continue to participate in this wonderful work. May God bless you abundantly!

Respectfully yours,
Marina Kishinyovskaya
Bendery, Moldova

We Wish You Every Happiness

We are sincerely thankful to Ezra Fund and all your donors for the spiritual and financial support at that time when our family had difficulties. Your support given to us at the proper time helped us to quickly prepare all documents for the repatriation to Israel. We wish your fund and your donors prosperity and good health. And we also wish you in the future to have the possibility to help those people who are in difficult situations but have a deep desire to leave for their motherland, Israel. We wish you every happiness!

The Kiper Family

Join Our Next Fishing Trip!

Ezra International's next Jeremiah 16:16 Fishing Trip in Ukraine will be September 19-28. Join Rev. Barry Wagner and our Ukraine team as we serve Jewish families leaving for Israel. Let God touch your heart as you share His unconditional love with His chosen people. **Call 352-394-4673 for more information.** Space is limited, so please contact us today!

REPLY CARD

I want to support Ezra International's work of bringing the Jewish people home to Israel!

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