



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

RESCUE | RETURN | RESTORE



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Friends in Aliyah in Peace and War

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

Friendships are built on trust and mutual respect and are often built in peacetime and put to the test in wartime. True friendships will not only withstand the trials of war, but will thrive and grow even stronger. Ezra International and The Jewish Agency in country after country have built this type of friendship.

Ezra International's leadership and staff are among the most dedicated people I've ever known. The holy work of the aliyah takes drive and determination in all types, including dangerous conditions. For example, today Ukraine has taken center stage due to the on-going conflict. The fighting has created a refugee problem and Jewish people are fleeing eastern Ukraine and taking shelter further west.

Ezra's teams are actively moving and caring for these displaced families and recently the Director of the Unit for Russian-Speaking Jewry wrote us a sincere letter of gratitude, which included the following:



On behalf of The Jewish Agency for Israel, please accept my profound appreciation for the support of our mission-driven efforts to rescue Jews from the regions of fighting in Eastern Ukraine and bring them to their Jewish Homeland. ...

Thank you very much for your crucial support in bringing olim from the dangerous areas, providing them with secure temporary shelter and helping in issuing their passports, but foremost - for your care and compassion.

Anti-Semitism, unrest and uncertainty exist in many of the 16 nations Ezra International is currently working in. Our Directors, Representatives, staff and volunteers all aim to serve the Jewish people with love and humility and train the local Christian communities to do the same. When speaking to the Gentiles in Rome the apostle Paul wrote of our obligation to the Jewish people when he said; ***For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. (Romans 15:27)***

From Ukraine to Uruguay, from Argentina to Azerbaijan or from Germany to Georgia we serve with a heart of gratitude for the spiritual blessings the Jewish people have brought to the world. Our hand of friendship has been warmly received and our gratitude reciprocated.

Today the economies in Europe and South America are struggling and anti-Semitism is on the rise. The friendships we have already forged with the Jewish Agency will be the foundation for this ever-expanding work. Together we share the word of God as our mutual motivation in seeing His will performed on the earth.

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth—Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." (Isaiah 43:5-7)

May The Holy One of Israel bless you abundantly!

Yours in Him,

Rev. Gary Cristofaro