

EZRA NEWS



VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1

RESCUE • RETURN • RESTORE

Our Biggest Year Yet!

All of us at Ezra International **want to thank all of you our donors and supporters** who have helped us make 2018 our biggest year yet in support and with getting thousands of Jewish people to Israel according to G-D'S prophetic promises. We could not do it without your unwavering support and prayers, again thank you.

Jeremiah 16:14-15 (NASB) "Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where HE had banished them.' For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers".

A Greater Miracle

In the verse above, G-D speaks of a time when HE will do a **greater miracle** than when HE parted the Red Sea. Well, today we are living in that time. HE is using you and Ezra International as HE brings the Jewish people - especially the poorest - home to Israel from the four corners of the earth. It is an awesome privilege for us to be a part of this miraculous regathering that HE spoke of in **Jeremiah 16:14-15**.

So, with that in mind we are looking forward to 2019 as HE is opening many new areas in which Ezra International will help. HE is sending us to Southern France, Colombia, Bulgaria, and helping many to come out of Venezuela. We are seeing much more anti-Semitism and poverty increasing in all the countries we are working in, plus the war in Eastern Ukraine has heated up again so please keep praying for our teams.

Thank you all again and may the LORD shine HIS face on you and bless you in this coming NEW YEAR.

Mel Hoelzle
Founder and President



*"For I will restore them to the land (Israel) I gave their forefathers."
Jeremiah 16:15b*

Our Partners in Ministry
Bridges for Peace • Ministry to Israel
Zion Ministries • Father's House

We Went To Be A Blessing BUT

By Rev. Barry Wagner, Vice President

This statement is one that I hear year after year from many of the Jeremiah 16:16 “Fishers” that accompany me to Ukraine on my annual Jeremiah 16:16 “Fishing Trips” and this year was no exception.

Once again God put together a perfect group of team members who love Israel and the Jewish people. They came from Ontario, Canada, North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Massachusetts and Georgia. They all came with one goal in mind, to be a special blessing to the Jewish people they would meet. And a blessing they were!

Several of those we met were in tears as they experienced the unconditional love that the team lavished upon them. Most of the Jewish people living in Ukraine feel as if they are second and even third-class citizens because of being Jewish. As the team traveled so far from home to bless these precious people, they soon discovered that those blessings came right back to them. God declared in Genesis 12:3, “I will bless those who bless you (the Jewish people) and those who curse you I

will curse.” The team experienced the reality of that promise as they gave of themselves to God’s Chosen People!

This experience has been such a blessing to one of this year’s team members that she is already

registered for the trip in 2019 which will be her third year in a row to be a part of this life-changing experience. Two of the other team members that traveled with me this year have also registered for their second trip during 2019. I would like to invite you to be a team member for 2019 (see below).



Jeremiah 16:16 Fishing Trip

To: Kiev and Odessa, Ukraine

Date: September 18 – 27, 2019

This is your personal invitation to travel to the country of Ukraine with Rev. Barry Wagner, Vice President of Ezra International, to be personally involved in the regathering of the Jewish people of the former Soviet Union to their “Promised Land”. It is one thing to see Bible prophecy being fulfilled but it is another thing to be part of it. This is your opportunity to be used by God to be a special blessing to the seed of Abraham (Isaiah 49:22).

During this life-changing experience, you will literally become one of the fishers spoken of by God in Jeremiah 16:16. You will visit many of the poorest Jewish people that Ezra International is assisting in their Aliyah (repatriation) to Israel. You will be involved in delivering humanitarian aid: you will visit “Father’s House,” an orphanage co-sponsored by Ezra International, for street children. You will travel by overnight train from Kiev to Odessa to visit Jewish immigrants as they prepare to leave to begin their new lives in Israel and much more.

The approximate cost of this ten-day ministry experience is only \$1,600 from New York round-trip. This price includes round trip air fare, hotels, train tickets and meals.

For additional information and an application form, please contact Rev. Barry Wagner at Ezra International: P.O. Box 120926 Clermont, FL 34712-0926 Office Phone: 352-294-4673



The first twelve people to register will receive a gift copy of Barry’s book, *And Still They Come, Israel’s “Final Return.”*

Lengthen Your Cords, Strengthen Your Stakes - Isaiah 54:2

by Carrie Burns, PhD, International Liaison

One of my roles for Ezra International is to tell stories of God's love for the Jewish people and how He is gathering them from the four corners of the earth to restore them to Israel. When speaking, I look out at the audiences of Christians in churches, Bible studies and home groups to see them marvel as they hear the good news of God's marvelous plan and work of Aliyah.

Something more is happening: in addition to sharing the Aliyah story in these traditional Christian settings, God has taken the tent stakes and moved them out a few pegs to include other strategic audiences, widening our outreach in getting the word out. Some of the unique audiences in 2018 included:

Leaders: in March, a US Army 4-Star General brought me to Israel to provide lectures on anti-Semitism to an elite group of US military, political and corporate leaders. These movers and shakers learned how Ezra International is on the front lines, assisting Jewish families who seek refuge in Israel.

Academics: in April, I was asked to deliver the keynote address to the staff, faculty, students and guests at the Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. Educators (educational multipliers) and college students learned that the Holocaust was a powerful motivator for the work of today's Christians in rescuing the most impoverished Jewish families and restoring them to Israel.

Corporate America: in August, the CEO of a Texas-based corporation flew me to Houston to address his annual corporate meeting. Each year his company

highlights a Christian organization with which his directors and employees are encouraged to get involved. This year it was Ezra International.

Jewish Friends: in December, I was invited to speak to two distinguished Jewish groups in London: the first, at an evening parlor soiree of academics and professionals, and the second, during the Shabbat service in a London synagogue. It was an amazing privilege to share the work of Ezra International to our Jewish friends in the UK and see their tears and hear their expressions of gratitude.



Pray with us that the Lord will lengthen and strengthen our outreach even more in 2019! We need your help and influence to reach an increasingly wide-spectrum of people. Perhaps you are connected to a university, corporation or other group that would be interested in hearing about the extraordinary humanitarian work of Ezra International and how we are changing lives. Drop me an e-mail (carrieburnsphd@gmail.com) and we can begin brainstorming ideas on how to make it happen in 2019.

Their "Final Exodus"

The "Final Exodus" is tangible, visible evidence that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is a faithful God and He has kept His promise to the Jewish people. They are returning to the land of their inheritance, never to be uprooted again. Why are they leaving? The war in Ukraine continues to rage, anti-Semitism is rising in country after country and many live in horrible, impoverished conditions.

Due to security concerns in some of the countries in which we are working we have been asked by the Jewish Agency not to publish statistics. But we are very happy to announce that thanks to your prayers and financial giving, over 5,500 more Jewish people made it home in 2018 and now over 67,000 since we began our work.

You have made a huge difference in the lives of these Jewish people. Each year more and more of them are living freely in The Promised Land thanks to you.

A Reminder: The Forgotten War

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

Caught In The Crossfire

By the end of 2018, Russia had massed 28 battalion task groups, more than 1120 tanks, 2600 armored vehicles, 1230 artillery systems, and 442 multiple-launch rocket systems and 6 short-range ballistic missile systems at the border with Ukraine. Russian-led forces continue to mount attacks on Ukrainian troops. The sound of grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms fire can still be heard in the towns of eastern Ukraine. Fourteen times both sides have agreed to a cease-fire and fourteen times the agreement has been broken. People are dying and Jewish families are caught in this crossfire.

Years of Suffering

Since 2014 over 10,300 Ukrainians have died virtually unnoticed by most of the world. The situation is grave. Hospitals cannot perform surgery because they lack anesthesia. Homes have been destroyed. 150,000 people are not getting their monthly food allotment. Three million are being impacted through another frigid Ukrainian winter.

We thank God that you've been with us all along. Since this war began almost five years ago, you have helped us save hundreds of Jewish people from the destitution and destruction of the war zone. At great risk to their own safety, volunteer drivers and representatives from Ezra International are rescuing these desperate people every day. This cannot be done without your help.

The Least of These

Yeshua (Jesus) said of His Jewish brothers and sisters: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).

Ezra International is committed to helping the "least of these", the children and the poorest-of-the-poor of the Jewish people who live among the nations. The demand is urgent and great, especially in Ukraine. Together with you, we are committed to doing the will of God in our generation!

Thus, says the Lord GOD: "Behold, 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, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders..." (Isaiah 49:22).

"Whoever Saves One Life, Saves the World Entire"

The world may have forgotten about the war in Ukraine, but I know you haven't. You are faithful and your sustained donations have made a huge difference in the lives of tens of thousands of Jewish people over the years. This past year alone you have helped over 5500 Jewish people escape their impoverished and often dangerous surroundings and make it home to their Promised Land.

I know that as we all pray together, work together and share our material blessings with those in desperate need we can save many Jewish lives that would otherwise perish in this horrible war. A new year has begun, but the need remains. As 2019 begins will you continue helping us rescue the impoverished Jewish people from Ukraine and many other nations? They are looking to us for help - together and by the grace of God we will make it happen.

Traumatized Children In Ukraine's War Zone

By Bruce and Anne Elliott, Representatives for the Children's Program



Fighting Continues

Though we never hear about it in the news, fighting has continued unabated in the war zone in eastern Ukraine. Nearly every night there is shelling and shooting by snipers who are Russian-backed rebels, causing many families to sleep in shelters for safety. You can imagine how extremely traumatizing this is for children. There is no help at all available for children in dealing with what they are experiencing. Natasha, who used to be one of the social workers in the Ezra Child Rescue Mobile Unit, has moved to this area to see what she can do to help children and we plan to partner with her to provide resources.

Humanitarian Aid

In November, the head of the Ezra Unit and other social workers of ours traveled to two towns in the Donetsk area to train teachers in schools on how to help traumatized children. They also did art therapy with classes of children. In addition, they brought with them much needed humanitarian aid.

Our Goal

Firstly, our goal is to have Natasha train the teachers. She will tutor them on how to provide counseling and activities that will help the children to cope. We will also provide teachers with materials. Then we plan to start an after-school program similar to the 'Achievement' center we partner with in Kiev. We may even have a chance to use some space rent-free which would make it easier for us to provide materials and food for a daily meal.



If you would like to partner with us to help these traumatized children from Ukraine's war zone you can do so by specifying "**Children's Fund**" when you give. Thank you and may God bless you for helping the most vulnerable in this fight.



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Please Support
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*Coming Soon! New Bible Study Course
Aliyah: Understanding the Return of the
Jewish People to Israel*

by Carrie Burns, PhD, International Liaison
(e-mail: carrieburnsphd@gmail.com)

Pastors, Bible study facilitators, Sunday school teachers: there is nothing like it out there and it's almost ready! This past year we have made it a priority to tap into the life experience and knowledge of our Field Operations Director, Pat Frame, to compile a ground-breaking PowerPoint-based course with companion workbook. The course on Aliyah can be presented in eight weeks (more, if your calendar allows) or in an action-packed weekend seminar. Our goal is to have it ready to go by May so that you can begin planning for summer and fall! Here's a sneak-preview of the content:

- Lesson 1 Israel: The Land
- Lesson 2 Israel: The People
- Lesson 3 Restoration of All Things
- Lesson 4 History and Meaning of Aliyah
- Lesson 5 Call to the Gentiles and the Aliyah Process
- Lesson 6 Obstacles to Aliyah and Intercession for Aliyah
- Lesson 7 Anti-Semitism and Lessons Learned from Esther
- Lesson 8 The Purpose of it All

There's more: we can bring this exciting course to your community for pennies-on-the-dollar. If you want to learn how, drop me an e-mail (see above) and we can schedule a seminar with me or with one of our representatives. Let's get this material into all 50 states!



When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed Psalm 126:1 (NIV)

RESPONSE CARD

Please support Ezra International's work of bringing the Jewish people home to Israel with the largest gift possible.

If you would like to make a ONE-TIME GIFT or a monthly donation to Ezra International, please send your financial gifts to:

Ezra International
P.O. Box 120926
Clermont, FL 34712-0926

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