

EZRA NEWS



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

RESCUE • RETURN • RESTORE

Thank You and Happy New Year

All of us at Ezra International want to thank all of our partners and supporters for your unending support in 2019. Without you, thousands of Jewish families would not have been able to make their final exodus to Israel. SO, A GREAT BIG THANKS.

Looking forward to this new year of 2020 we see an even greater need. Across the world we are witnessing more acts of anti-Semitism and the countries we are working in are experiencing worsening poverty. But we know that with your prayers and support, Bible prophecy regarding bringing the Jewish people to Israel from the four corners of the earth will be done by all of us.

So, may HE shine HIS face upon you and bless you all 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



Their "Final Exodus"

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 individual statistics. But we are very happy to announce that thanks to your prayers and financial giving, over 7000 more Jewish people made home in 2019 and now almost 75,000 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.

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.



Jeremiah 16:16 Fishing Trip

To: Kiev and Odessa, Ukraine

Date: September 16 – 25, 2020

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

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 361757 Melbourne, FL 32936-1757
Office Phone: 352-294-4673



2019 "Fishing" Team Members
Visiting a Jewish Family

Not To Act Is To Act

by Rev. Gary Cristofaro

2019 was an amazing year and together we made a difference in the lives of thousands of Jewish people. In fact, over 7000 Jewish people are now living in Israel thanks to Ezra International donors like you. So, although this gives us reason to celebrate, it is only part of the story. Tragically, many Jewish people are still suffering and experiencing anti-Semitism, an ancient hatred that is very much alive and active in the 21st-century.

Ancient Hatred

The month of December is touted as a time of love, peace and good will toward men. But last month was anything but peaceful if you happened to be Jewish.

- Five people were wounded in a horrific machete attack at a Hanukkah celebration in the home of a rabbi in a suburb north of New York City.
- There was a deadly attack at a kosher supermarket in Jersey City that left six people, including the two gunmen, dead. In London, a Senior Rabbi was brutally attacked by anti-Semitic teenagers.
- A synagogue in Beverly Hills, California was vandalized, with Torah scrolls, prayer shawls and prayer books violently strewn around the synagogue. The police are investigating the incident as a hate crime.
- During the same time period in New York, the NYPD is investigating six anti-Semitic attacks that happened over less than a 4-day span.
- This all following a case in upstate New York in November where an Orthodox man was stabbed multiple times on his walk to synagogue for morning prayers.

The United States and The U.K. have historically been safe havens for Jewish people. But something is changing. If conditions can change this drastically in relatively friendly counties, can you imagine what Jewish people are experiencing in historically anti-Semitic countries around the world?



Photo by Beny Shlevich via Flickr

2020 Vision

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Anti-Semitism and poverty are two of the major challenges we continue to face as we look to 2020. Anti-Semitism can be found across Europe, through-out the former Soviet Union countries and in South America - all places where we are currently working.

Then there is horrendous poverty. Ezra International's founder Mel Hoelzle recently spoke to some Jewish families that we helped from Venezuela. They described the horrible conditions they were living in and how they would line up at the garbage dump trying to find scraps of food. Another shared that his grandchildren were eating grass and weeds because food was impossible to come by.

We Must Act

Ezra International and our partners will not stand idly by while God's representative people need our help. Although we've had a record year, we are determined to help even more Jewish people in 2020. In his book "The Cost of Discipleship," Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes. ... [f]or faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience." At Ezra International we are extremely confident that we are obeying God's call and mandate to the nations when we help His children home.

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)

We are equally confident that we are obeying Jesus when He said, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:40

With every act of obedience, we help rescue Jewish people from anti-Semitism and poverty. With every act of kindness, we help them return to Israel. With every act of compassion, we help restore hope for a better life in Israel. Thank you for partnering with us in the past and thank you in advance for your acts of generosity and faithfulness in the year ahead.

He Who Scattered Israel Will Gather

By Patricia Frame

Thirty years ago, in November 1989, the Berlin Wall collapsed which reunited East Germany with the West and opened up the way for the collapse of the former Soviet Union. This was something that many had been praying for – not least the East German believers – but it was something that still took us by surprise! It was an enormous change, not just for Germany. As one friend of mine put it, “The gospel could go into these countries and the Jews could come out!” As the former Soviet Union countries declared independence from Russia in 1991, it did open the doors for the return of the Jewish people from the Land of the North!

From The Land of The North

There are many verses in our Bibles talking about the return [of the Jews] from the Land of the North and these scriptures began to be fulfilled as the Jewish people took the opportunity to make their Aliyah. Christian organizations began to help in this move of Aliyah. Ezra International started work in Ukraine in 1995. It appears from the Scriptures that the Lands of the North are like a key, as it so often says, “the land of the North and the other nations ...” Increasingly Ezra International is also involved in the return of the Jews from some of ‘the other nations’! Aliyah from the former Soviet Union countries continues and, in some cases, is even growing. Aliyah from Russia has risen considerably in the past year and also our part in it. By the end of 2019 Ezra International helped over 6,500 from the FSU countries.



...And The South

However, this year we are seeing a stronger basis for our work in South America – primarily Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. (We help other countries with smaller Jewish populations also via Colombia.) In 2019 we helped around 500 from these countries. Aliyah is growing due to the economic and political problems being faced in many of these countries. This number could be much higher in the coming year.

...And All The Lands

Our focus is also turning more to Europe. We have been working in France. We helped our first families leave France in July, 2019 and have helped more than 30 people make Aliyah. Again, we expect to grow in France. We have also helped a number of people leave from Bulgaria and Germany. As we see anti-Semitism rise across Europe, we also expect a rise in the numbers making Aliyah.

Declare It!

We are seeing things that many believers from past generations saw in the Scriptures but did not see in reality. We are seeing God fulfilling His promises to His people – and not only seeing but able to be a part of it whether by prayer, by giving or being on the front line helping through our teams. Perhaps you will make this declaration with me from Jeremiah 31:10, “Hear the Word of the Lord O nations; declare it in distant coastlands, He who scattered Israel will gather them again and watch over them as a shepherd watches over his flock.”

Ezra's Children's Work - Ukraine

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

Child Rescue

The Ezra Child Rescue Mobile Unit provides front line response 24/7 to reported abuse and neglect of children. Our Unit currently has an ongoing caseload of 179 families. 119 of these parents are drug/alcohol addicted. That is 321 children who would have had virtually no help without our Unit! In 2019 we were able to take a big step forward. A very generous donor gave us funds to hire another social worker and we just increased our response coverage from 5 to 7 of the 10 districts of Kiev.

Recently, an evaluation was done by a government team on the effectiveness of children's programs in Kiev. Our Unit, in tandem with our after school program partner "Achieve," has proven to be much more effective than other programs. As a result, Kiev's Child and Family Services Department has asked us to develop and conduct a training program on working with addicted parents!



More Faithful Partners

Our partner, Father's House children's home, currently has 86 children in its care. Father's House is very grateful to Ezra International for their faithful monthly financial help. We were also able, through donors who gave specifically for this need, to provide an 'all weather' games area on the Father's House grounds - it is being enjoyed by all ages of children, even in their winter conditions. Also praise-worthy, friends like you helped us raise the remaining funds for urgent surgery at a hospital in Turkey for a young boy named Illya. He lives at Father's House and would not have survived without the surgery. But today he is thriving.

Our partner "Life at 100%" rehabilitation house, where many of the addicted mothers, with their young children from the Child Rescue Mobile Unit, go to live for a while is now enjoying clean, safe water as a result of Ezra donors specifically giving for this. We are so grateful for your help in 2019 to these very vulnerable children - together we made a difference!



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Please Support
Ezra International
With a Gift

*It's Here! New Bible Study Course
Aliyah: Understanding the Return of the
Jewish People to Israel*

by Carrie Burns, PhD, International Liaison
(e-mail: carrie@ezrainternational.org)

Pastors, Bible study facilitators, Sunday school teachers: there is nothing like it out there and it is 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. It can be purchased at our Ezra Store on our website! Here is the table of contents:

- 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 you 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 361757
Melbourne, FL 32936-1757

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