

FOCUS on PRAYER



*'Pass through, pass through the gates!
Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway!
Remove the stones.
Raise a banner for the nations.'*
Isaiah 62:10

PREPARE THE WAY THROUGH PRAYER

From its birth at the International Prayer Conference in Jerusalem in January 1991, prayer has been at the very heart of the ministry of Ebenezer Operation Exodus.

On the first aliyah sailings in the ship Mediterranean Sky, December 1991 and January 1992, a prayer team was present to lay the foundations for a sea highway. The Lord went before us then and ever since! Prayer has underpinned our operations in the fSU breaking open the way in the spirit and giving support to our committed teams as they helped 130,000 + Jewish people home.

We are continuing to learn lessons in prayer and intercession and it gives us great pleasure to introduce this publication, 'Focus on Prayer', which highlights some of the ways we have been led to pray for aliyah from the ends of the earth!

The mandate and call the Lord has given to Ebenezer Operation Exodus is to prepare the way through prayer and to assist His Jewish people to return to Israel. A priority is to prepare the 'highways' in the spiritual realm by removing the obstacles to aliyah, in faith that the Lord will reveal them in the physical realm in His timing, as routes for the Jewish people to take on their journey home (Jeremiah 31:2; Isaiah 62:10). These highways do not stop at national borders, and close cooperation between nations participating in corporate prayer actions has been achieved. Our mandate also includes prayer for the Church to awaken to God's

call to engage in the ministry of aliyah. A number of prayer leaders give testimony in this prayer focus of the Holy Spirit's guidance in prayer in their nations and regions.

There are many Ebenezer prayer partners who pray individually and the emphasis on corporate prayer which comes through 'Focus on Prayer' does not in any way exclude you. Home-based prayers are deeply appreciated and of great consequence. The covering of prayer they bring over Ebenezer's operations across the ministry is invaluable and during initiatives to special sites, home prayers are vital in keeping watch and bringing a shield of protection over the prayer teams.

Basing our prayers on Scripture, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in harmony with each other, expressing agreement with God's Word through proclamation, prayer and praise is portrayed in the testimonies that make up this publication. May it encourage, equip and envision you as you watch and pray with us for the fulfilment of God's word in the aliyah.

We thank the Lord for each one of you, for His faithfulness and the marvellous works that He has done thus far.



**Joan Thomas &
Alison Eastwood**
International Prayer
Coordinator & Assistant



THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE: The weapons of our warfare

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Prayer is a struggle and whilst prayer in the Holy Spirit connects us with God Himself, it also means we are engaging in a spiritual battle as we meet resistance to God's will.

Prayer is very much part of spiritual warfare which can be described as the battle to overcome Satan's attempt to prevent the Word of God being fulfilled on earth. Its aim is to overcome all resistance to the establishment of God's will through intercessory prayer and the proclamation of God's Word. Although the believer can be confident that the will of God will always be established, it is well to understand that it will not be without a struggle (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8b).

THE WEAPONS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare uses spiritual weapons and spiritual strategy to demolish the strongholds of Satan (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Our authority and power comes from the Lord Jesus. It is given to us that we may overcome all the power of the enemy as we implement His will on earth (Matthew 6: 10, 28:19–20; Luke 10:17). To be overcomers, it is necessary for us to constantly abide in Christ (John 15:4).

The Name of Jesus.

One of the chief means of establishing God's will and purposes is persistent prayer in the Name of Jesus according to His will (Matthew 7:7; Mark 16:17–18; John 14:17,3–14,15:7,16:24; Acts 3:16).

The Word of God.

The Word of God will always defeat Satan (Hebrews 4:4–11). He must bow before God's Word (Matthew 4:1–11). We shall experience the fulfilment of God's will and purposes when we know and stand upon the Word of God.

Praise and proclamation.

When facing enemy resistance, praise and proclamation go together and will often lead to a spiritual breakthrough (2 Chronicles 5:11, 20:21–23; Acts 16:25–26).

Fasting.

The Bible assumes that fasting is sometimes involved in seeking God — it is not, 'if you fast', it is '...when you fast...' (Matthew 6:16; Mark: 9:28–29). Fasting is a discipline that prepares our heart to seek the Lord and enables us to hear God when He speaks into our spirit.

The Sacraments.

Sharing in the breaking of bread together is an act through which the Holy Spirit draws us to the Lord and to one another. In this act we not only remember His death upon the cross but we proclaim His victory over sin and Satan as well as proclaiming His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:23–32).



Ken Hepworth
EEF UK Chairman,
Training & Development
Executive



Is not My word like a fire?
... And like a hammer that
breaks the rock in pieces?
Jeremiah 23:29



Ellis Island with Manhattan in the background.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

The corporate proclamation of the Word of God is a mighty weapon of our warfare!
2 Corinthians 10:4.

In 2006 the Lord showed the US Ebenezer team a strategy for building up the highways and clearing away the stones (Isaiah 62:10) impeding the Jewish people from aliyah. To bring victory, this process involved the corporate proclamation of His Word before, during and after a prayer event.

Our first prayer journey was close to our Buffalo office. A sign on old Fort Niagara stated that 'he who owned the fort owned the continent'. Among other scriptures we proclaimed, 'Little by little I will drive them out from before you until ... you inherit the land' (Exodus 23:30). Soon the Lord opened doors in the region of the Great Lakes including the first person asking for aliyah help.

Since the birth of the State of Israel, the US is no longer the **permanent** home for His people. Concerned about the number of Jewish people still immigrating to the US, we tore up and threw into New York harbour a copy of the original document allowing them to settle. The Lord gave scriptures to proclaim, including Psalm 105:6-11, declaring that Israel is the Land the Lord gave as an everlasting covenant to the Jewish people. Within months, office space in the New York area was donated and the Jewish Agency welcomed our participation in their aliyah process.

The largest prayer initiative involved our whole worldwide prayer family. We knew we were building not only on previous US events but also on all the prayer journeys



USA family celebrating at the Western Wall, Jerusalem.

that had occurred across the ministry. For 18 months we frequently visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island where thousands of Jewish people entered the US. Each time we proclaimed scriptures of praise, of victory, of the lordship of Jesus and the opening of aliyah gates and highways. We are anticipating a major exodus soon from the largest Jewish population outside of Israel itself. The proclamations will continue until this victory is accomplished.



Wendy Beckett
Prayer Coordinator
USA



A team preparing for prayer initiative.

PREPARING A PRAYER ACTION

The preparation of a prayer action starts with... **prayer! Our first step is to ask the Lord to show us what are His priorities.**

In Australia in 2008, we began to sense a prayer burden for the release of the Australian Jews and the Lord drew us into a joint prayer action with our UK intercessors in 2009.

When the Lord has confirmed the general direction, our next step is to undertake some research. We use Isaiah 62:10 as a guideline and ask the Lord to show us the gates and highways that He sees as important in the spiritual realm. What are the 'stones' accumulated through the years that are now obstacles to the Jewish people making aliyah? A 'highway' was established when the First Fleet arrived in Australia from England in 1788, with 16 Jews on board — the first of many British Jews to come to Australia. Sydney became a major 'gate' or entry point. Issues such as antisemitism, involvement in freemasonry and assimilation emerged as some of our 'stones.'

Where possible, we 'spy out the land' (Numbers 13; Joshua 2). We ask the Lord to show us where to pray, how many prayer teams are needed, and any significant landmarks. Some will be part of the prayer team while others

bring prayer cover and support from home. Unity and learning to 'march in rank' bring blessing! (Psalm 133; 1 Chronicles 12:38).



We seek the Lord for the timing of our prayer action: sometimes there is a significant date or anniversary that He impresses on us. A season of preparation will include some fasting, worship and proclamation of Scripture to exalt the LORD and proclaim His Word. The Holy Spirit guides us in bringing a corporate prayer together which includes exaltation of the Lord, confession of sin, forgiveness, renunciation, closing false gates and highways, opening the true ones and proclaiming the aliyah scriptures.

Prayer actions form a part of the fabric of intercession through which the LORD moves to accomplish His purposes. This prayer action was completed in July 2009 — a UK Ebenezer/Jewish Agency partnership began with the first aliyah flight August 2009 and Australia experienced a 48% increase in aliyah in 2010 — a wonderful testimony to an awesome God!



Circular Quay, Sydney.



Sydney Harbour.



Fiona Stucken
Prayer Coordinator SEAO

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The Queen Mary II alongside the new cruise liner berth.

REMOVING THE STONES – LIVERPOOL

Liverpool has been a major gateway over the centuries. It is a gateway for aliyah for the Jewish community in the North West of England.

Gateways and highways can have blockages — ‘stones’ which need to be removed (Isaiah 62:10). We have found that discerning these is itself a matter for prayer and intercession — it is more important to discern than to dig for information. He graciously reveals the stones; this happens in many ways: prayer, waiting, walking the land, news, research and odd things the Lord brings to our attention.

Repentance, renunciation of sins, and the proclamation of scriptures (given by the Holy Spirit) and of the Lordship of Christ over the aliyah gateway of Liverpool, have all been part of the removal of stones.

The Lord has revealed a number of ‘stones’ — the slave trade, the ‘false aliyah’ route to Australia and USA, the treatment of child migrants and the UK’s first mosque.

The internment of Jewish people and their trans-shipment to various parts of the empire was one such ‘stone’. As part of the UK/Australia Prayer Initiative in 2009, we prayed first at the Woolfall Heath Estate, site of the Huyton ‘Enemy Aliens’ Internment Camp.[†] The team included the vicar of the local church and ‘born and bred’ Liverpudlians — giving added spiritual authority. We walked the streets, prayed and planted a peg, inscribed with Jeremiah 29:10–14 in the ground. On the anniversary of the sailing of the HMT Dunera,^{*} we cast red rose petals into the river in memory of those transported and their suffering — and as a symbol of the cleansing of sin and the healing of wounds through Yeshua’s shed blood.



Woolfall Heath Estate, Internment camp 1940.



Woolfall Heath Estate 2009, where the peg was planted.

Praise the Lord for all He has done! Each prayer action has concluded with rejoicing and a powerful sense of the Lord releasing His angelic forces to do His will and fulfil His Word. Liverpool is now a city of amazing regeneration; it has a new cruise liner berth for the very largest of ships, and a new sense of cleanness and an ‘open heaven’.



John & Jenny Godfrey
Prayer Coordinators England

[†] Approximately 27,000 men and women, mostly Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution, were interned in hastily erected camps all over the UK.

^{*} On 10 July 1940, 2,542 detainees, all classified as “enemy aliens”, were embarked onto Dunera at Liverpool. They included 200 Italian and 251 German prisoners of war, as well as several dozen Nazi sympathizers, along with 2,036 anti-Nazis, most of them Jewish refugees.





PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

An important part of our prayer focus is for the body of Christ worldwide to embrace its biblical responsibility to love, shelter and support the Jewish people as the Lord re-gathers them to Israel. (Ezekiel 36:19-28; Romans chapters 10 and 11).



Church with Star of David

When we pray for revelation of Israel in the Church it is important to see that Jesus is the Lord of His body. What is written to the church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3:7-10 is significant: 'He who holds the key of David says...: I have set before you an open door, and no one can

shut it.' Even with our little strength He will use us for His work in the Church.

Over the years we have learned that education and teaching about God's plan for Israel is important. But between information and revelation is a big gap. Only the Holy Spirit can open the eyes of our brothers and sisters to understand the mystery of the 'one new man' — the Church from the nations and Israel. Already Paul struggled with prayer for this (Ephesians 2:14-18; 3:1-12). The Lord's plans will be fulfilled and we are very encouraged to see how more and more Bible-believing Christians take on their responsibility and are standing with Israel and support aliyah.



Educating the Church about Israel and aliyah.

A supporter's testimony of God's faithfulness:

'For many years we have been part of the prayer family of Ebenezer. The burden grew in us for the Lord to open doors in our church to receive understanding about His plans for His people. For a long time there was no breakthrough in this area, especially concerning praying for Israel. Later we were asked if we could coordinate the theme of Israel in the church and we were entrusted with leading prayer for Israel. Today the foundation of God's plan with Israel is integrated into the life of the church. They bless us when we have an outreach with Ebenezer and an 'engage' representative taught in our youth group. Also some members in the congregation are preparing in practical ways to stand with the Jewish people in their time of need. The Lord opened all these doors!'



Hanna Ernst
Prayer Coordinator
Switzerland



Much joy at the Western Wall as olim receive their Israeli identity cards.

PRAYER CHANGES LIVES IN ISRAEL

Without doubt the work of Ebenezer Operation Exodus Israel would not succeed without the ministry of prayer.

We praise and thank God for hearing and answering the prayers and intercessions of Ebenezer's faithful supporters worldwide, so that Jewish people coming home to Israel can be planted in the Land (Jeremiah 32:41). Both aliyah and absorption are vital aspects of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. The Jewish people need to return and stay in the place where God will protect them and reveal Himself both to them and to the nations.

Here are several examples of individuals and families who with our assistance, encouragement, and extensive prayer received breakthroughs and are settling in the land:

Indian family

Some Jewish families come home to Israel with very limited material resources. Thankfully, the Israeli Ministry of Immigrant Absorption provides assistance to new immigrants. However, some struggle without supplemental income. We have been helping a family from India: the husband is a returning resident and the wife and child are new immigrants. We thank the Lord that the family remains in the Land despite thoughts about going back to India.

Irina

This single mother of seven children from the Former Soviet Union has faced many challenges and considered going back to the FSU. With our support, Irina and her family remain in the Land. In fact, her mother has come from the FSU to join the family.



Yedidiah, the Indian couple's son who is happy to be in Israel.

Naomi (previously Monique)

Following extensive counsel, Naomi from Switzerland, after several months, won the right to become an Israeli citizen.

Swiss family

This family of five faced several difficulties settling in the land. Their absorption was complicated by the fact that the parents are deaf and could not communicate on their own and needed assistance from translators. After much prayer and intercession the family is being planted successfully in the Land, having overcome several challenges. Praise the Lord that both the son and mother recently obtained good jobs.



Shirley Lawrenson

Olim Liaison



Dutch prayer group at the Ten Boom Museum.

LEARNING TO WAIT AND LISTEN

In Spring 2010 we started with a core prayer group to pray for aliyah out of Holland and to remove the obstacles from the aliyah highway. We have to learn to listen to God and wait for Him.

He revealed that one of the 'stones' was the guilt of betrayal during World War II. Many Dutch people helped the Jewish people and hid them, e.g. the Ten Boom family, but others betrayed them. After a few months of prayer we asked the Lord how to finish this focus. He impressed on us the 'Corrie ten Boom house' and we understood because the Ten Boom family was eventually betrayed! The house currently exists as a museum. As a prayer group we had the opportunity to finish this focus there in prayer. We glorified the Lord and were on victorious ground!



After the core prayer group started many things changed in Ebenezer Holland and nine more prayer groups were formed. Being in the centre of God's will in prayer is amazing (Psalm 84:10).

People call Ebenezer and tell of how the Lord showed them their Hebrew roots. Some ask for information for making aliyah, whilst others want to donate money and receive the Bulletin. God is moulding and changing hearts — including mine! We have been able to help some families make aliyah in the last few years.

At the beginning of this year I asked the Lord for a scripture for Ebenezer Holland. Within half an hour our daughter sent me an email, not knowing what I had asked the Lord for. She wrote: "Dad, I have to give you a scripture, Isaiah 62:6-7: *'I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; ... You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.'* This is the same scripture that was at the top of the Main Prayer points, January – February 2012!

To GOD be the GLORY!



Arjen van den Bos
Prayer Coordinator Holland

**Would you like to be involved in praying for the work of aliyah?
Please contact your National Office for further information.**

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Operation Exodus is an instrument of the Lord to encourage and help the Jewish people to return to the Land of Israel from the land of the north and all the nations and to proclaim God's Kingdom purposes for their return.