

Operation Exodus

A ministry of Ebenezer Emergency Fund International



'FOR IF THE GENTILES HAVE SHARED IN THE JEWS' SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS, THEY OWE IT TO THE JEWS TO SHARE WITH THEM THEIR MATERIAL BLESSINGS.'

ROMANS 15:27

FOCUS ON AID

Love in action

Alongside His teaching about the Kingdom of God, Jesus constantly told His disciples through parables and direct commands to 'watch and pray'. It was through watching and praying they would be able to understand the way God was working out His purposes.

Today there has probably never been a more necessary, indeed urgent, time to obey this command to watch and pray as we look to the future in an increasingly unstable world.

I recently visited our teams in Russia and Ukraine. Speaking with base leaders from across the Former Soviet Union, we saw the urgency of the task ahead in face of the rise in anti-Semitism. Our leaders and their teams work daily on the front-line, reaching out into Jewish communities to bring the comfort and support which is so often the key to aliyah — the return of His people to Israel. They cover vast distances in the harshest of conditions, particularly during the long winter months, often in sub-zero temperatures, to demonstrate **love in action**. They told me about the many

challenges they face, almost on a daily basis, when meeting families who are finding it difficult to put food on the table and pay for the cost of medicines for their sick children. They also shared with me wonderful testimonies of blessings and even miracles they see and experience as they reach out to Jewish families through our humanitarian aid programmes.

It is your prayers, practical support and financial giving in 2011 which has enabled us to meet these needs and to extend our aid projects over a wide area of the FSU, targeting specific needs. Our base leaders have been so encouraged and they have asked me to pass on their thanks to you, our donor supporters around the world, who have given so generously. We have been overwhelmed by this. It has made such a difference.

In this Bulletin you will read just a few of the stories of those we have helped through your support. Our aid programmes remain a vitally important part of Ebenezer's ministry as we see an increasing need and with your help we want to do more. This winter we are again running a number of important projects, including the purchase of winter shoes for children and providing medicines for Holocaust survivors. We will also continue to provide food parcels and warm winter clothing for the poor and needy.

On behalf of our leadership team, I want to express our deep gratitude as you partner with us. We thank God for you and the way He uses you for His eternal purposes and for His glory as we stand with the Jewish people.

May the Lord's presence and blessing rest upon you all throughout 2012.



Alan Field CEO and International Coordinator

In 2011 your support enabled us to:

- Distribute nearly 5,000 food parcels.
- Spend \$25,000 on medicine for Holocaust survivors and Jewish families.
- Help over 1,300 potential olim travel to Israeli consulates.
- Purchase \$15,000-worth of shoes and new clothes for needy Jewish families.
- Visit over 11,000 Jewish families.
- Assist nearly 500 potential olim with documents.

A Christian ministry helping the Jewish people return to Israel



Bringing joy at Hanukkah

Joining the Ukraine team for the 2011 Hanukkah food parcels project took us to the Crimea, where just over 3,000 Jewish people live, many in desperate poverty.

For eight days Pavel expertly drove us nearly 1,500 miles over rough roads often covered with snow and ice. We visited 80 people with the Hanukkah parcels and met with pastors to strengthen their support for the work. It was an amazing time.

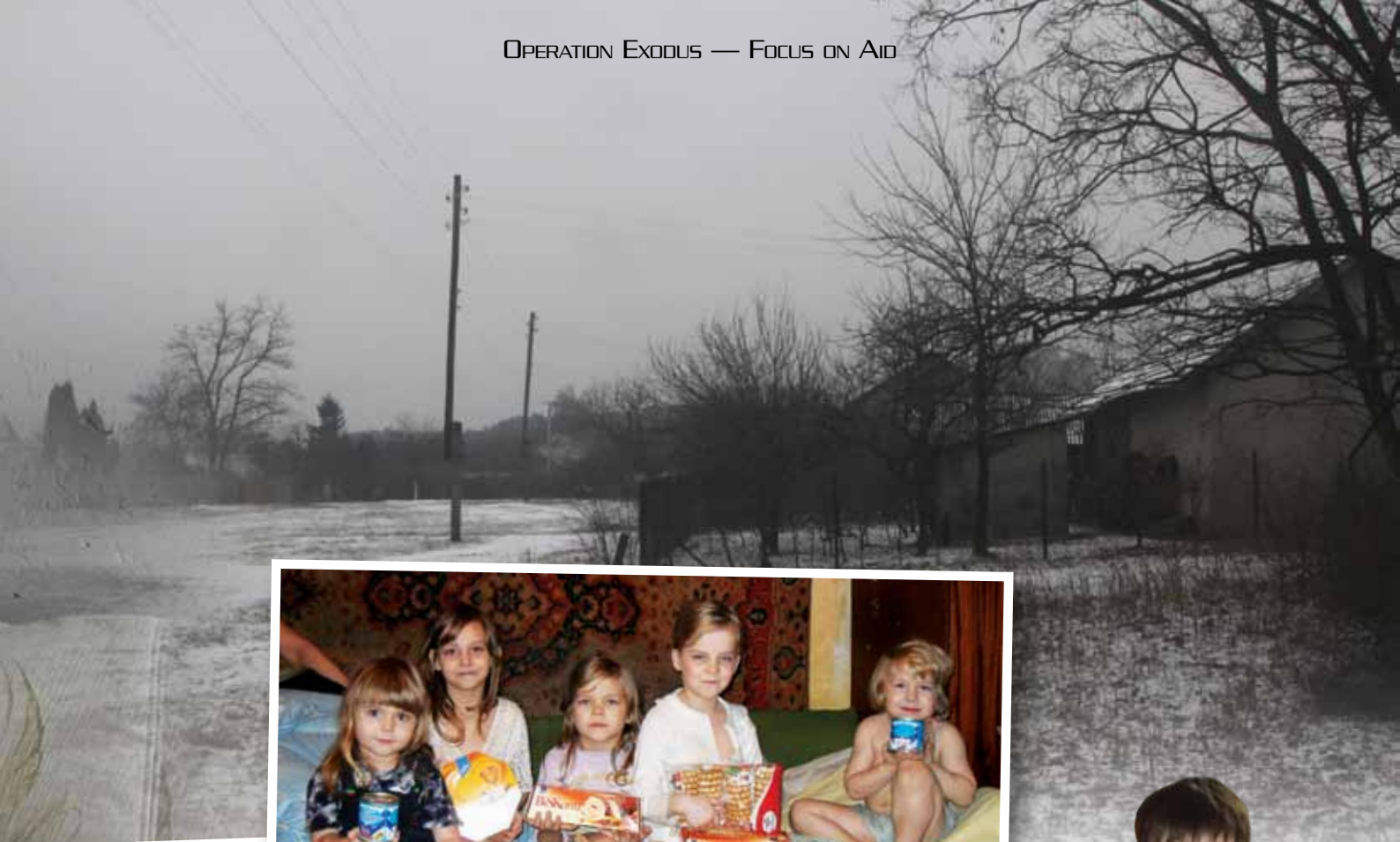
In Yalta we met Yanika. Her husband died in a car accident a year ago, so she is bringing up Daniel (15), David (11) and disabled Dasha (4) alone. Their two-room flat is falling apart. As well as giving food parcels, we encouraged her to search for the documents that would enable the family to go to Israel. In tears, she thanked us profusely.

In Sevastopol we gave a food parcel to Bogdan (13), whose mother and father, Natasha and Oleg, suffer from asthma. Most of their money goes on medication. They cried when we gave Bogdan the box of goodies! Yanya, our representative, said their health would improve if they went to Israel. We encouraged them to do this through the Scriptures and they decided to start the aliyah documentation process – with Ebenezer's help.



By **Rod & Penny Langston**
UK regional representatives





Winter shoes delight children

Our winter shoes project by bases across our operational areas has become an increasingly important part of our humanitarian aid work. In Omsk, western Siberia, Galina reports:

'In November we provided 38 children from large families with low incomes with this kind of aid. The Chief Rabbi of Omsk region wrote in a local Jewish newspaper about how we took the families to a shop to choose winter shoes for their children. We held meetings for the parents and children at the synagogue and the Shalom Jewish community centre so that we could formally present the shoes to the children. It was like a holiday for them!

I had the opportunity to share about the work of Ebenezer Operation Exodus with these families and how we could help them make aliyah.

Some told us that they were planning to meet the Israeli consul about moving to Israel.'

Another base much involved in the project is Pyatigorsk. A cry for help to Tatiana, our representative in Stavropol, caused her to visit Natalia, who we had previously helped with Hanukkah food parcels. Tatiana writes:

'The children were in need of warm winter shoes which Natalia did not have the money for. We were able to help the family in this way. Maxim, one of the children, was very happy as he put on his new boots!'

A BIG THANK YOU!

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all you, our faithful supporters and partners, who have stood with us throughout 2011. Our base leaders also express their deep appreciation as our humanitarian aid work provides an important bridge into Jewish communities. Your gifts have enabled our teams to visit many Jewish families individually during the past year to share God's love with them.



Vadim Rabochiy
Deputy FSU Operational Director

Warm clothes so timely

By our Pyatigorsk team

The start of our warm clothes project in November was very timely, for it coincided with the early and unexpected arrival of cold weather. Run alongside our winter shoes project, the Jewish families we provided this aid to were especially grateful that we were caring for their needs, especially the children's, as the long, hard winter months beckoned. This helped them to open their hearts as we shared the Scriptures about God calling them home to Israel.

In one village a 12-year-old boy was so delighted that we bought him a warm jacket. His parents were thrilled because they could not afford to buy him any winter clothes.

We managed to get through the heavy snow to find Rivka. She was in distress because she was freezing in her little hut-like home. We bought her warm socks and boots – and a heater. *'What a pleasure!'* she exclaimed. *'I have not been so warm for a long time!'*



Delighted with his new jacket!



Warmer now: Rivka after we bought her a new heater.

Buying essentials for schoolchildren

By our Pyatigorsk team

The start of the new school year in August can be a hard time for some Jewish families because they face the costs of stationery and other items, including schoolbags and smart clothing for their children. We run a project to help them and in 2011 provided stationery kits for 128 children living all over this part of Russia, including small and remote villages.

Our Stavropol representatives bought kits and invited families to a special Shabbat gathering just before the new school term opened to present them to the children. Their radiant faces said it all and their parents thanked Ebenezer profusely for these gifts.

A mother bringing up two children alone said she could just about manage to buy school stationery but *'it is not so easy to afford a new school suit for the boy. He grows up so fast that I cannot manage to buy new clothes for him!'* We took the mother and her son to a shop where, at his suggestion, we bought him a suit a size larger to last longer. To add to his delight, the shopkeeper presented him with a bow tie!

Thanks to your support we are able to show God's love to Jewish people in this very effective way. It opens up their hearts to hear and respond to His call for them to go home to Israel.



A Christian ministry helping the Jewish people...

Our winter projects

Across the Former Soviet Union our humanitarian aid projects help us to meet Jewish families and encourage them to make aliyah. This year our winter projects include:

Winter shoes

The winter months can be very difficult for families living in the Former Soviet Union. Many poor Jewish families suffer badly during the extremely cold winter weather. This year we are again buying warm winter shoes for children in need.



Food parcels throughout the winter

We demonstrate 'love in action' by providing food parcels to needy Jewish families throughout the long winter months. In the midst of their poverty our teams bring hope and encouragement by providing for their basic needs.



Medicines for Holocaust survivors

It is a privilege for us to bless Holocaust survivors by providing them with medicines. Many of them are in poor health due to the harsh conditions they endured during the Second World War and the medicines they require are hard to afford on their meagre pensions.



Winter clothing and blankets

We provide Jewish children with warm winter clothing and blankets to help them cope with the harsh conditions. Bringing these gifts opens the hearts of the Jewish people and helps us build relationships.



Hanukkah food parcels

The Jewish feast of Hanukkah (21 – 28 December) was a wonderful opportunity for us to visit Jewish families, bringing them festive greetings and a much-appreciated food parcel.



Sometimes it only takes a small gift like a food parcel at Hanukkah, or winter shoes or clothes, to touch the hearts of Jewish families and open them to the message of returning to Israel. Your support enables us to provide these gifts, so thank you for your generosity. We invite you to continue to support us so that we can carry on with this vital work.

NEW VEHICLES NEEDED!

The vehicles we use are essential to our work. They enable our teams to deliver humanitarian aid and help transport Jewish people to airports to go to Israel. The tough road and weather conditions, combined with their long service and high mileage, mean that some are now reaching the end of their working lives. The vehicle pictured is 20 years old and has travelled 500,000 km delivering humanitarian aid to poor and needy Jewish people in Ukraine. We urgently need to replace it and several others.



A Christian ministry helping the Jewish people return to Israel

Aid and aliyah

By our **Rostov-on-Don** team

We have been finding that some Jewish families we give humanitarian aid to need more help later on. Anna, a single mother, and her five children was one such family. They are so poor that they can only afford to rent very basic accommodation unsuitable for year-round living. When we first visited them in 2010 we provided emergency aid – food and clothing. Last year we found Anna was struggling with the costs of her children attending school, so we helped by buying stationery for them.

Anna wrote to us thanking us for the help we have provided:

‘My family got into a difficult situation and at present have to live in a home with almost no amenities. I am bringing up my children alone. The assistance provided by Ebenezer is so vital to us. I and my children are very thankful to



So grateful for our help: Anna and her children.

all who help us. We made the decision to move to Israel a long time ago and due to the support, including financial aid, rendered to us by Ebenezer we shall soon be able to fulfil our dream.’

Meeting Holocaust survivors’ needs

By our **Moscow** team

We rejoice in being able to supply medicines to Holocaust survivors living in and around Moscow. The survivors say what they need, the prescriptions are purchased and delivered to their homes.

These elderly people welcome us warmly and often become emotional when sharing the memories of the nightmare years. One man told us, *‘Even if I were Tolstoy or Dostoevsky [famous Russian writers], I would not have the words to convey to you the horrors we went through.’*

He and his family fled their home when Hitler’s forces

came, seeking refuge in ghetto after ghetto during the next 18 months. He alone survived – a miracle.

We share about aliyah, assuring them of God’s love and how He wants them to ‘return’ to Israel. Many declare that they are too old to leave, but they talk to their children and grandchildren about going. Sometimes we meet the younger generations because they live together.



Medicines ready for delivery to Holocaust survivors.

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.



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