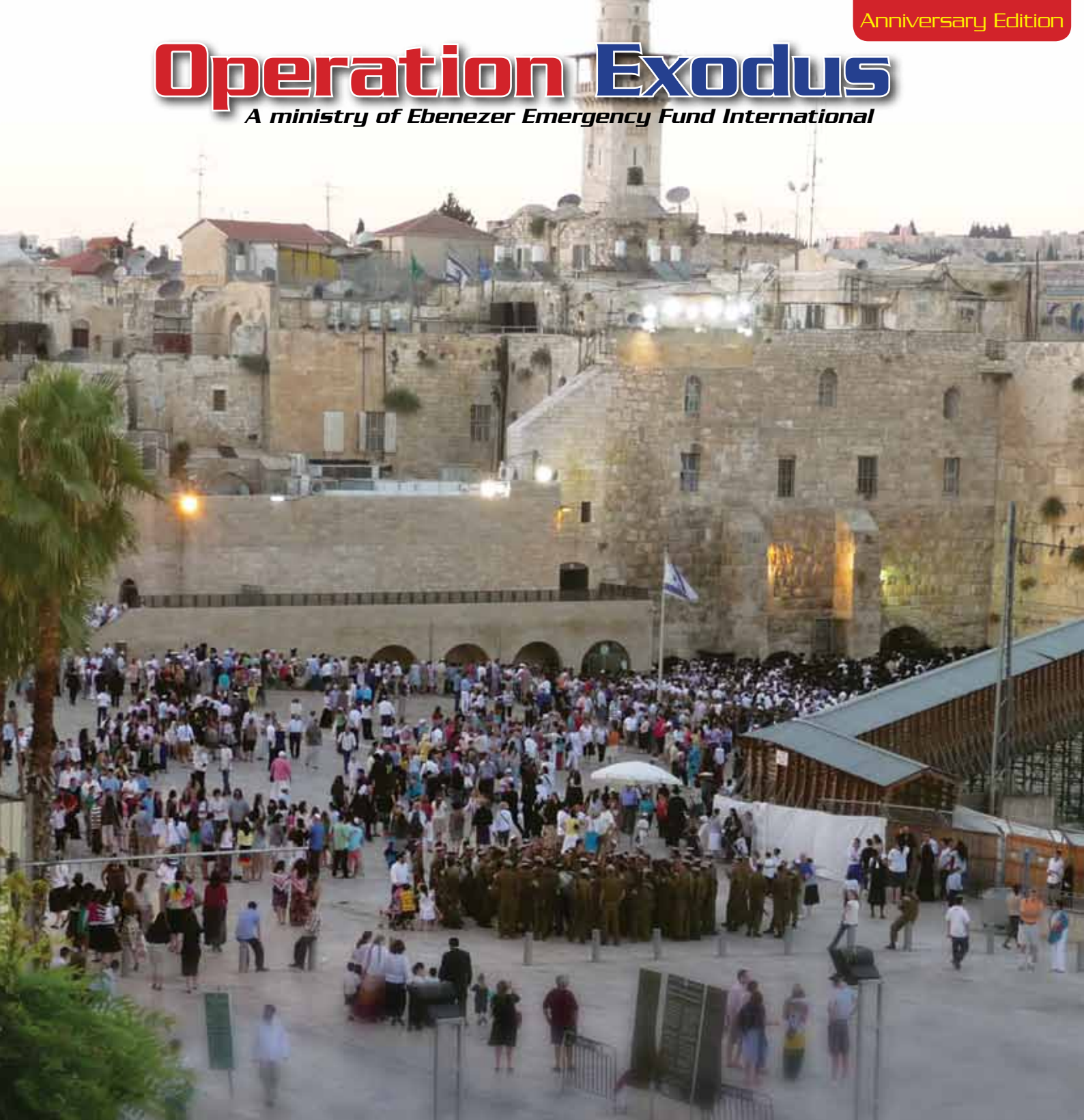


# Operation Exodus

*A ministry of Ebenezer Emergency Fund International*



## Celebrating 20 years

*of God's faithfulness*

*in bringing the Jewish people home*

*A Christian ministry helping the Jewish people return to Israel*



## To God be the glory!

**Markus J. Ernst** Chairman,  
Ebenezer Emergency Fund International



With thankful hearts we celebrate 20 years of God's faithfulness to Ebenezer Operation Exodus. The only explanation for the amazing developments we have seen since our modest beginning in January 1991 is that the Lord's hand is in it. Ebenezer is part of the breathtaking fulfilment of His promises for the restoration of all things.

That a small ministry, started by three people, would be able to assist a huge number of Jewish people from around the world to return to Israel and raise all the finance needed for this over the last 20 years stems from Gustav Scheller's obedience to God's call. He was faithful to that call until the Lord took him into His presence. The vision Gustav received acted as a seed from which grew a ministry involving many members of the body of Christ – wonderfully illustrating God's principle of multiplication.

We have seen the mighty hand of God bringing His chosen Jewish people home to Israel in fulfilment of His many promises. It started in the 'land of the north'

(Jeremiah 16:14-45), but a few years ago a shift began to include Jews of 'all the countries' (Jeremiah 23:8). The opening of new highways in the nations became a reality.

We have been greatly encouraged by the Lord bringing worldwide growth to the ministry. A key factor has been the faithful prayers and financial support of our brothers and sisters around the world, without which the work would not have been done.

Ebenezer's relationship with the Jewish Agency has developed and strengthened in the nations through our long-standing association with them, particularly in the Former Soviet Union, which goes back many years. We are now working in close partnership supporting aliyah flights from Western nations.

All the glory belongs to Him, the God of Israel. As we gratefully look back over the past 20 years of Ebenezer Operation Exodus we realise that aliyah has just begun!

## 1991

Ebenezer Operation Exodus is founded during the first Gulf War.

## Seeing the vision come to pass

**Gustav Scheller** 1929 – 2000  
Founder of Ebenezer Emergency Fund

In his hotel room in Odessa, Ukraine, on 20 December 1991, as he prepared for the first sailing to Haifa, Gustav Scheller recorded his thoughts about the birth of Ebenezer:

'In January I was privileged to be coordinator of the annual Intercessory Prayer Conference in Jerusalem. The dates coincided with the beginning of the Gulf War. No one who attended the conference will ever forget our time in Jerusalem. We were all equipped with gas masks which we were obliged to wear during Scud missile attacks. In fact, we got very little sleep. But despite the missiles falling on Israel we felt secure under the shadow of the Almighty.

Nine years ago the Lord showed us that a time would come when I would help the Jewish people to return from the land of the north. It was during the January 1991 conference that the fulfilment of this vision began to come to pass. As I started sharing the vision, funds began to arrive and we established Ebenezer Emergency Fund.

The first assignment was to charter a plane for returning Jewish people. Then there was a second and a third flight. Each time we were there to welcome the Soviet Jews back to their homeland.

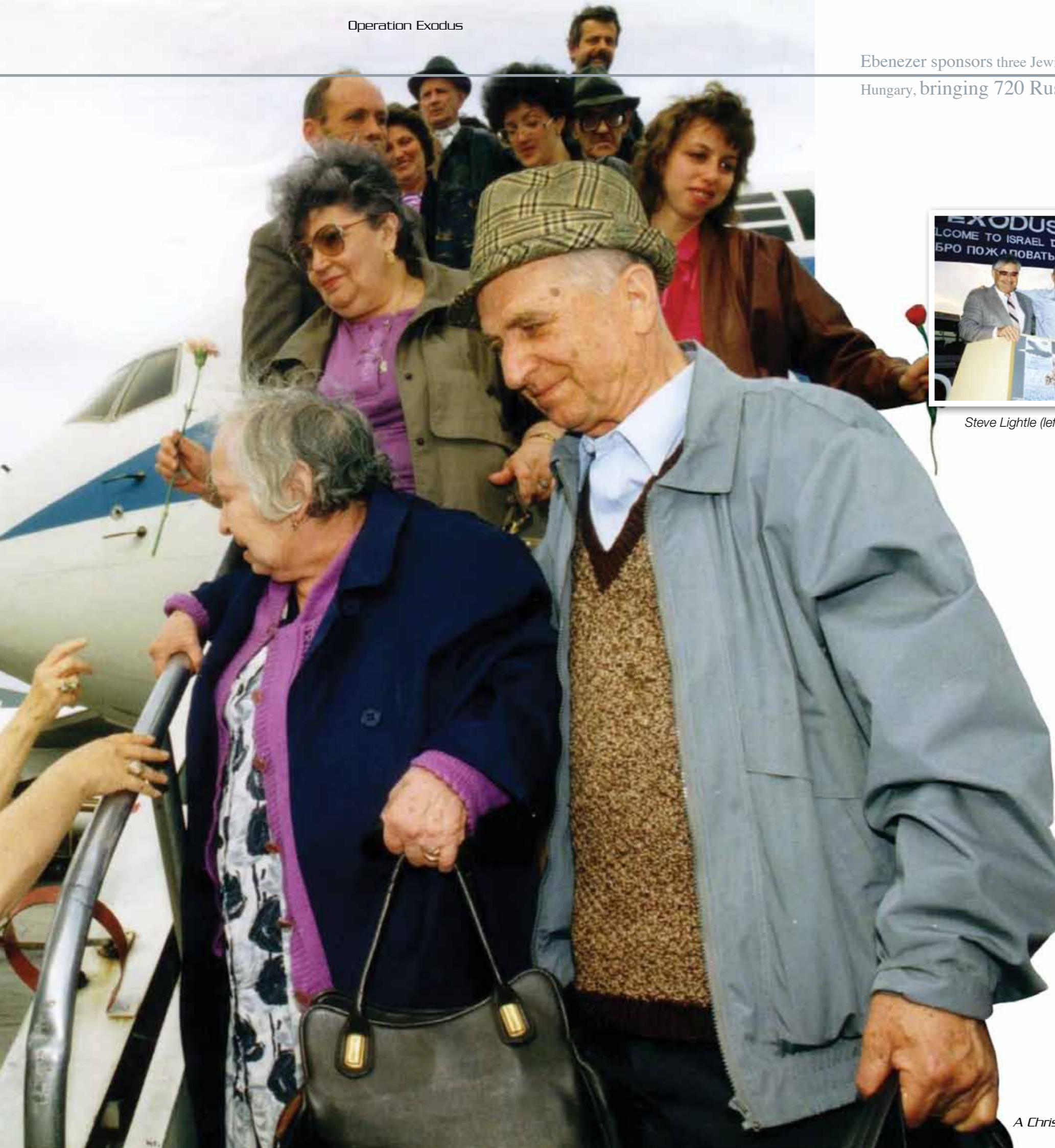
We were seeing the prophetic words fulfilled: "Behold, I will bring them back from the north country and gather them from the ends of the earth; the blind and the lame, the women with child." All of us who stood there were deeply stirred.

It has been truly an awesome experience as we have witnessed the spirit of the Lord moving among the hearts of the believers around the world. The impossible has happened and over this past year we have raised approximately \$1 million USD to cover the costs of chartering the planes with a substantial surplus for the proposed shipping line.'



The founders: Gustav and Elsa Scheller

Ebenezer sponsors three Jewish Agency flights from Budapest, Hungary, bringing 720 Russian Jews to Tel Aviv.



Steve Lightle (left) & Gustav (right)



## Named by the Lord!

Beverley Hill Board Secretary



It was in the late 1980s that the Lord prompted Gustav Scheller to sell his English language school in Bournemouth and invest the proceeds in another property which could be used for Christian purposes. Gustav's wife, Elsa, prayerfully sought a suitable name for the building. The scripture which came to her mind was from 1 Samuel 7:12, 'Ebenezer' (stone of help), 'thus far has the LORD helped us.' Ebenezer House was named!

When, in January 1991, Gustav and Elsa returned from the International Prayer Conference in Jerusalem with \$30,000 USD to start assisting with aliyah flights from Eastern Europe, the ministry needed formal registration. At that time Gustav felt there might only be a short period of time to help the Jewish people return to their true homeland – hence Ebenezer *Emergency* Fund came into being. With the funds available, Gustav turned to the Jewish Agency to see how Ebenezer could sponsor flights from Budapest with Jewish olim from Eastern Europe; three flights took place in the spring of 1991, assisting 720 olim.

But already some of our supporters were quoting Isaiah 60:9, 'the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them.' Intercessors were asking Gustav, 'What about a ship?' As a Swiss person having lived a large part of his life in a land-locked country, it took some convincing for him to agree to pursue a ship charter in Greece.

Continued overleaf

25 chartered sailings between March and December, carrying Jewish people to Israel from Odessa

1993

3 mercy flights operated from Armenia direct to Israel.

Work starts in Central Asian republics.

1994

It was a steep learning curve and led to three trial sailings between December 1991 and January 1992 from the Ukrainian port of Odessa to Haifa in Israel. Realising the importance of having a proper structure in place if this was to become a long term project, the following months saw a number of bases being established to receive the Jewish people in Odessa. We organised a team of volunteers from the Former Soviet Union and the nations to take care of them en route to the Promised Land. Between 1993 and 2004 regular sailings continued, carrying a total of 41,033 olim.

While much of the focus of the ministry has been on our sailing programme, we should not overlook the importance of the work carried out by our workers in the FSU. They have assisted more than 88,000 Jewish people to return to Israel by air with the Jewish Agency, helped to find important documents, provided medicines and humanitarian aid, as well as giving much-needed encouragement and support during the aliyah process.

Gustav went to be with the Lord in February 2000. Twenty years on from the start of EEF, the Lord has greatly blessed the ministry by allowing us to be a part of aliyah from many nations. We give all the praise and glory to Him and say, indeed, thus far the Lord has helped us – knowing there is still much to be accomplished! ☆



Ebenezer head office is in the basement



Mediterranean Sky



“I have no doubt about the birth of Ebenezer as a ministry. It came during the Gulf War in January 1991. The way it came into the heart of Gustav Scheller was clearly the Holy Spirit speaking. It was during the intercessors' conference, most of which was in a bomb shelter with everyone wearing gas masks and matters for prayer written on a board. It was born in the midst of conflict and the Lord honoured it through the years in the thousands of Jews brought back to Israel from the Former Soviet Union. It has been a testimony to the absolute faithfulness of God to His Word and covenants.”



Lance Lambert  
International Bible teacher

## Thus far has the Lord helped us

Alan Field CEO and International Co-ordinator



When the Lord first called us to this work 20 years ago we had nothing – neither finances nor helpers. Today Christians in over 40 countries worldwide are involved with Ebenezer Operation Exodus. By the end of 2010 we had, through God's grace, assisted over 130,000 Jewish people to return to Israel, their true homeland. We have also distributed many hundreds of tons of aid over the years through our network of bases and representative offices across the Former Soviet Union. This has been possible through dedicated teamwork involving volunteers and workers who have served faithfully over the years – East and West working in partnership.

‘Thus far has the LORD helped us’ (1 Samuel 7:12). The words ‘thus far’ are like the hand of God pointing down the avenue of the past 20 years. Through all the joys, trials, triumphs and prayer, the Lord has been faithful and we have witnessed His miraculous hand at work, expanding the ministry in the nations. We delight to look back and see all He has accomplished, but ‘thus far’ is also a clarion cry urging us forward. We have reached a wonderful point of celebration, but we are not at the end. Still to come are more times of testing, more trials, joys, praying, answers to intercession, more victories – and many more Jewish people to be helped to their homeland! *Continued overleaf*



## Expansion in Kazakhstan with 600

Jewish people making aliyah by air during the year.

Ebenezer remains an intercessory ministry with a prophetic task. Over recent years we have been challenged by change and growth. It is very important to see all the changes that have taken place as a continuation of the original vision birthed all those years ago at a prayer conference in Jerusalem. We are moving into a new dimension of our original calling. We must be clear about this: the challenge of change and new development will remain with us as the ministry moves forward in God's plans and purposes. The Lord has warned that the days ahead will become perilous and our task more difficult. Not for one moment can we think we can continue to operate as we did ten, or even five years ago. We must watch closely what the Lord is doing and follow as He leads us through this period of transition.

An effective God-given vision will always empower, release and prepare people for the future while retaining its roots in the past. We have already installed and developed regional and national teams as part of the preparation. Our international structure is mainly in place and our teams in the nations are working well. Now we must build on the foundations, strengthening the work at regional and local levels. This requires focused commitment and we must pray for the Lord to release the workers in each region – prayer leaders, regional representatives, those with administrative gifts and the next generation of volunteers.

As we see the ministry's growth in the nations we remain committed to our operational teams in the Former Soviet Union, who continue to help and support over 70 per cent of those making aliyah from the regions we operate in. This is a wonderful tribute and testimony to the faithfulness of our dedicated workers throughout a vast area spanning ten countries. There will, however, almost certainly come a time when foreign volunteers will be expelled, so we are moving forward with our strategy to hand greater responsibility to our national leadership teams in these countries. A key part of our strategy is the development of education programmes working with our Dutch partner ministry, Christenen Voor Israel.

*Continued on page 10*

## EEF helped nearly 100 olim from Armenia. 1995



“Christians for Israel (Christenen Voor Israel, CVI) has been working closely with Ebenezer Operation Exodus since 2004. This is a truly unique friendship. Each of our organisations has its own history, focus and mission. We each have our own strengths and weaknesses. But over the last few years we have discovered that we share the same values, hopes and vision. We have learned to bear each other's burdens and are committed to helping each other. We thank God for all that He has done through you in the last 20 years. We wish you the full blessing of the Lord and hope that we will be able to work ever more closely throughout the world to strengthen the body of Christ and bless the Jewish people.”

**Rev. Dr. John Tweedie** Chairman;  
**Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer** President;  
**Andrew Tucker** Executive Director, Christenen Voor for Israel International; **Roger van Oordt** Executive Director, CVI Netherlands;  
**Koen Carlier** Field worker, Ukraine & Regional Director, CVI International

## Ebenezer celebrates 100 sailings to Israel

1999

“It was the offer of a lifetime: to join the 100th sailing from Odessa to Haifa. Our three days in Odessa exposed us to the excited Jewish people who were overwhelmed with the love of the Ebenezer team. During the voyage a friend was asked, 'Why do your eyes shine?' The olim packed into the lounge for the final meeting will always be etched in my memory: tears running down the cheeks of everyone in the obvious presence of the Lord. And then the climax: the excitement of the repatriates crowding the deck as they saw, for the first time, the Promised Land!”



**Murray Dixon** International Bible teacher and former rector of Christ Church, Jerusalem



21,104 Jewish people to make aliyah in this year alone.

It is exciting to watch how the Lord is mobilising this generation. In this we have a great responsibility. The Israel Project 2009 was a blessed and fruitful time in Israel for our young people and our second trip in July 2010 saw over 140 young people from the nations taking part. We plan to continue this programme, which provides young people with a first-hand understanding of God's plans and purposes for Israel through teaching and acts of service. We want to invest in the young leaders of tomorrow and our aim is to broaden the scope of The Israel Project. Our newly established Engage programme is the next phase in this very important strategic development and we will be working to develop extended leadership training programmes.

We have seen so much evidence of God's grace. As we prepare for the days ahead we need God-given vision. In Habakkuk 2:3 we are reminded of the most pivotal question of all: Where is the Lord directing Ebenezer - Operation Exodus? We need to hear His voice and know His will for the ministry. Everything else is secondary.

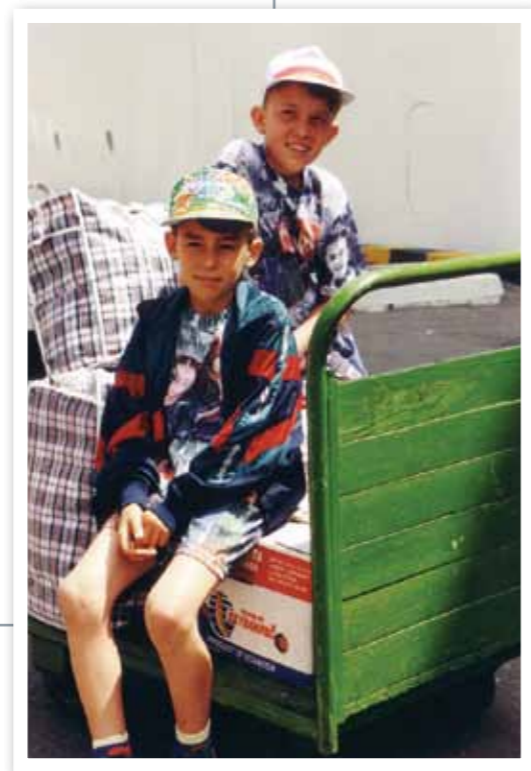
Aliyah is God's initiative. It is pre-ordained and promised by Him. He has never terminated His covenant promises with the Jewish people and it is He who is bringing them home. The gathering of the Jewish people is, the Lord declares, a solemn and powerful sign to the nations and we are commanded to make it known: *'Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock"'* (Jeremiah 31:10).✠



“When I first met Gustav and Elsa Scheller in 1982 in Jerusalem and Gustav stayed in our home, little did I know what the Lord was going to bring about. When we started Operation Exodus and chartered the first plane, then started the Exodus Shipping Line with three sailings to bring the Jewish people home, we had such a sense of awe as we were seeing the fulfilling of what the prophets of old had foretold. Then the Lord spoke to Gustav to start Ebenezer Emergency Fund and the rest is history.”



**Steve Lightle**  
Author of bestselling Exodus II



“One of the great blessings Ebenezer has brought is the establishment of trust between Jewish people and Gentile believers.”



**Mac Kingsbury**  
Advisory Council member

reach even the remotest of towns.



“Gustav Scheller consistently emphasised the advantages of aliyah sailings compared with flights to Israel. 'They elongate the transition,' he said. I saw this when sailing on the Dmitry Shostakovich in 1996. The passengers were understandably apprehensive as we left chilly Odessa, but half way to Haifa, as we approached the warmth of the Mediterranean, the mood palpably shifted. Fear gave way to a stunning reality: 'We're going home!' As my wife Wendy, our daughter Carolyn and I walked the decks wary glances became endearing smiles, hearty handshakes and teary hugs.”



**John Beckett**  
Advisory Council member USA



Ebenezer celebrates helping  
100,000 olim return to Israel since 1991.

2003

November 2004 - Hope out of tragedy

After seeking God's will in prayer, Ebenezer carry survivors of the Beslan School atrocity to Israel to receive free trauma and rehabilitation care in an Israeli hospital (Ephesians 3:10-11).

# Prayer – the heartbeat of Ebenezer



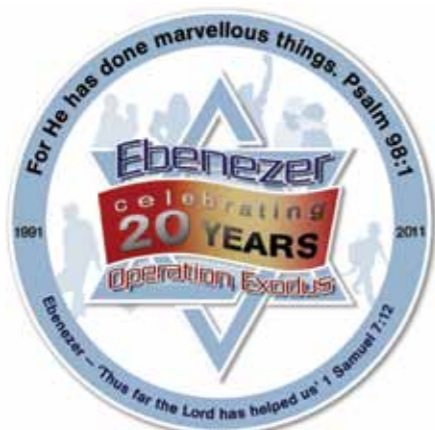
Joan Thomas International Prayer Co-ordinator

From the moment of 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. Over the years, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, lessons of intercession have been, and are being, learned.

The Lord has given growth and stature within the ministry with an increasing desire to prefer one another, seeking unity in the Spirit to do His will and to be obedient to His call, to prepare the aliyah highways and help His Jewish people go home.

As the storm clouds of anti-Semitism gather, the intercessory nature of the ministry will come under every kind of opposition Satan can devise. But in the words of Kingsley Priddy, *'through faith and costly obedience by His channels, the Holy Spirit overcomes every one of these, every weapon that the enemy could use to prevent the full second exodus from taking place will already have been blunted or broken. So he will be powerless to prevent that mighty surge of the Spirit when His time comes to complete His final aliyah from the four quarters of the globe ...'*

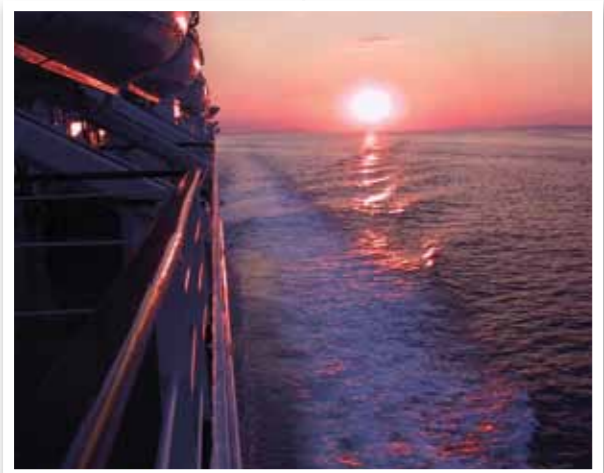
\* Operation Exodus Prophecy Being Fulfilled by Gustav Scheller, Appendix 1 (2006 edition, published by Sovereign World). ✪



Ebenezer's sailings are suspended from Odessa to Haifa, **2004** but the ministry continues to help with flights.

Ebenezer opens an office in **Jerusalem** **2006** to help assist olim settle in Israel.

Regional advisory boards in **2007** Latin America and SE Asia/Oceania.



“ During the 123 sailings I was privileged to be part of in bringing Jewish people home, the words of Psalm 126:2-3 came to me many times as we entered Haifa and saw the olim step on to their new homeland: "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. God's faithfulness to the olim as they journeyed home will always stay with me. I thank the Lord for helping and blessing me on those sailings as I accompanied the olim to Israel. ”



**Shirley Lawrenson**  
Olim Liaison, Israel



*Shirley provides comfort*

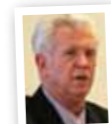
“ Nearly seven years have passed since the shipping line was suspended in 2004. Looking back at all the years I spent at Odessa I sometimes still ask myself how we, ordinary people, managed such a mighty operation. The answer is we have a mighty God! One time Gustav and Elsa came on the last sailing of what had been a difficult year. I asked Gustav whether he was satisfied with the sailing programme, but instead of saying something like, 'Yes, it was a good year,' he replied, "God has been gracious to us.' ”



**Vadim Rabochiy**  
Deputy FSU Operational Director



“ In January 1991, 14 people from Mexico were compelled by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem to pray for the protection and blessing of Israel. We arrived in Frankfurt, Germany to find our connecting flight to Tel Aviv the following morning had been cancelled. We went to our hotel and prayed and worshipped the Lord. Then three of us returned to the airport – and found our flight had been reinstated! The time in Israel was amazing. God heard our prayer, Israel was protected and we had the privilege of being there at Ebenezer's birth. ”



**Roger Wolcott**  
Board member and Development Team member for Latin America



In South Africa Ebenezer provided financial assistance to olim for their arrival in Israel, resulting in increased cooperation with the Jewish Agency.

Ebenezer sponsored a flight of Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa to Tel Aviv.

USA work continues to expand with new hub offices open in Connecticut and Alaska

2008



“We need to continue to position ourselves to hear, wait and allow God to show us the way forward! Daily we are asking the Lord to shine His light on every aspect of our work. More than ever we remain committed to abiding in Him, living in obedience, moving in humility with Ebenezer around the world, proclaiming the Lord's Word and gaining a place of intercession for the release of the Jewish people.”



**Debra Minotti**  
National Director, USA



“Praying in my flat one day in autumn 1990, I felt God wanted me to go to Israel. It was the next day, I think, that a note about the intercessors' conference in Jerusalem in January 1991 dropped through my letterbox. I went. It was a great time. Even though I saw nothing of Israel it was better than any tour! I felt the presence of God and the security of being in the right place at the right time. Twenty years on it's a privilege to serve full-time for Ebenezer!”



**Johannes Barthel**  
National Coordinator, Germany



“We are seeing a new wave of olim leaving their countries and heading towards the Promised Land ... In these historic times your help is more crucial than ever. I again thank you, all members of Ebenezer and the communities across the United States and all over the world, which support our aliyah initiatives.”

**Jewish Agency**, New York



“The Lord spoke to me clearly on Tuesday 8 January 1991: 'You must go to Israel!' That afternoon Western citizens were urged to leave Israel because of Saddam Hussein's vow to destroy Israel if Iraq was attacked. The following Sunday in church I poured out my heart to Pier even though I hardly knew him. After praying, he said he was prepared to go with me and asked when I was going. 'Tomorrow!' I said. I booked the flights leaving Tuesday morning. Gustav Scheller shouted: 'Praise the Lord you are coming!' We arrived, the last of the 120 participants God had gathered for His purposes: especially the birthing of Ebenezer Operation Exodus!”



**Richard Zevenhuizen**  
Chairman, EEF The Netherlands



**2009** Ebenezer Operation Exodus provided financial support for the

first Jewish Agency group flight from the UK, bringing 107 olim with ages ranging from three to 90 to Israel.



“ Last year over 19,000 Jews made Israel their home. Your contribution is crucial in helping to provide these immigrants with excellent services such as Aliyah on a Red Carpet where within 24 hours of landing, the new immigrants attend a special Absorption Fair enabling them to receive many crucial services. Your recent aid to orphan children in our Absorption Centers is vital in assuring that these youngsters receive all the help they need to succeed in becoming part of Israeli society.

In the name of the Jewish Agency, the Aliyah and Absorption Department and all the immigrants that you assist I want to extend my appreciation and gratitude to your extraordinary organisation of Christians standing with Israel and the Jewish people. Let us continue our cooperation assuring the ingathering of the exiles in the Holy Land of Israel!

Thank you very much and GOD bless you! ”



**Eli Cohen** Director General  
Aliyah and Absorption Department  
Jewish Agency for Israel



Dear Mr. Ernst,

I am writing to express thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Jewish Agency to Ebenezer on the occasion of your forthcoming convention which is to be held in Jerusalem in January 2011.

You and your colleagues at Ebenezer are true friends of the Jewish Agency, and the ongoing partnership that exists between our two Organisations at both an Organisational and personal level is important to all of us. Your tireless work, dedication and support for Aliyah enables us to continue this important work.

My warmest wishes to all of you.



**Natan Sharansky**

**2010** By the end of January over 130,000 Jewish people had been helped to make aliyah through the ministry of Ebenezer Operation Exodus.

“ On behalf of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the hundreds of olim who have made aliyah in the last year from the UK, thank you for your help. Our partnership is remarkable, unique even. Ebenezer's generous contribution has enabled us to run some of our vital aliyah projects, including one of our most successful, the Aliyah on a Red Carpet group flights. We have many projects ahead of us. Registrations for our group flights are at their highest and without your devoted support our mission cannot be considered complete. ”



**Rafi Nassi** Head of U.K. Delegation and  
U.K. Aliyah Director Europe Region  
The Jewish Agency for Israel



## Ebenezer engages the next generation

2010

with their young adult programmes and tours to Israel

“It is such a privilege to see what the Lord is doing with the next generation: As we tour Israel with young Christians from the nations we clearly witness how the Lord imparts His heart for Israel and aliyah. Through the teaching, seeing and experiencing the land and the people, they return home to their nation, equipped and ready to bless the Jewish people. ‘Engage Israel’ and our other programmes provide an opportunity for young Christians to engage with God’s Word and with the miracle of aliyah, as well as showing their love through practical service to the Jewish people.”

**Andy Ernst** Young adults’ programme coordinator



**engage** israel



[www.engage-israel.org](http://www.engage-israel.org)

*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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