



EZRA News

Our Partners in Ministry

**Bridges For Peace - Ministry to Israel
Zion Ministries - Chesed International**

“You Are The Only People Who Understood!”

My name is Natasha. I want to express my big gratitude to Ezra International and to all the people working there. I'm really touched by your care and by your financial and spiritual support of me and my children.

I had to bring up my children alone as my husband left us when our children were just infants. Since that moment he had never appeared in our life never helped us financially. At the me but then she died and very Living in a small town in Ukraine, I a good salary. That is why I worked jobs at the same time. I had to do and clean floors. I had no choice as did not want to give me a good job. describe everything!

When my children went to growing as they needed more only afford second-hand clothes but He never left us.

I knew I could go to Israel abroad I was scared to go to a two children. But once at night one “Mom, I’m hungry so much.” But I were crying that night together -- he hungry and I was crying because of decided to leave.



Denis, Natasha and Sergey Leaving for Israel

during these years and has beginning my mother helped hard times came to my life. could not find a good job with hard at two or even three various work -- sweep streets I had two kids and employers We suffered a lot. I cannot

school the expenses began clothes and shoes. We could I praise God for this as well.

but as I never traveled foreign country alone with of my kids woke up and said, had nothing to give him. We was crying because he was my helplessness. After this I

But new problems occurred -- I needed money for my trip to the consul and for foreign passports. Then I got to know about Ezra International and that they had a representative in my area. I called them and contacted your representative. Since that moment hope and confidence had come to my heart as I felt support and understanding. I got financial help not only for the trip to the Israeli consul and for four passports but for clothes and products for my children so they could study in school before I prepared all the necessary documents. I didn't want to send them to school as they had neither clothes nor shoes. Thank you! You blessed my children with clothes and shoes.

One of my sons was bullied at school and one of the teachers insulted him because his sports pants were small, and he wore knee pants instead. When I tried to complain to the school director he told me to go to Israel as quickly as possible, otherwise I would not leave at all. I worried about my children and about myself as I was their only close person on the earth. I knew we had to get to Israel if my children were going to have a future.

Thank you very much! You are the only people who understood and supported us in such an amazing way. Please thank the other Christians in America who made it possible for my children to have clothes and shoes for school and who made it possible for us to begin a new life in Israel.



“Israel’s population is *half the size of Metro New York City*”

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Ezra International

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Ezra News keeps our partners and friends up-to-date with the latest news, information, and insights on what Ezra is doing around the world to rescue, return, and restore the Jewish people to their God-promised homeland of Israel. To send us your comments and questions, to update your mailing address, or to request Ezra News for a friend, please call 352.394.4673 or email us at info@ezrausa.org.

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A Sacred Trust

by John Varner

Pastor, Courts of Praise, Millbrook, AL.

Family can't be chosen. Geniuses, nuts, or flakes; there they are and nothing can be done to change the situation. Friends, on the other hand, are a different deal. We definitely can decide about whom we allow to have a place of closeness. Several years ago God allowed our path to intersect with that of Barry and Linda Wagner. Barry serves as Vice President of Ezra International. Friendships formed, and we learned to love them for who they are and also for the work that had been entrusted to them. After Barry and Linda's first visit to our church (Courts of Praise in Millbrook, Alabama), the Holy Spirit moved upon us about Israel and the Jewish people, and we began to support the work of Ezra International.

We did not question God's plan to return those of Jewish descent to the land previously given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Scripture is very plain on this matter: **"Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth..." (Jeremiah 31:8)**. How much we were to participate and how many blessings we were to receive was yet to be discovered. We were a part of a new church, meeting in a store-front building. The search was on to locate our own land and have our own building. Real estate costs and building costs presented an impossible situation to a congregation of less than one hundred members. Our building fund was not growing fast enough to answer this dilemma. To make matters worse, God asked of us to give a sacrificial offering to Ezra International. We obeyed the promptings of the Father. A gift of \$5,000 was given from the building fund.

Motivation for such a move was obedience to the Father. He has promised that we will reap if we sow. We had planted precious seed into fertile soil of the Father's great plan of Israel's return home through Ezra International. Here we are, years later. What did God do for us?

We purchased twenty acres of land, refurbished some of the buildings, built a new sanctuary, and have enjoyed growth given by Jehovah Jireh. Economic hard times, cutbacks, and unemployment have been all around us, but our God has more than supplied our needs. Didn't He promise that He would do it?

The work is not finished. There are yet many more to come home. God has lifted up His hand to the Gentiles. Something is stirring, something is moving. We are being urged by heaven to do something about his matter. To participate financially and prayerfully will connect us to the plans and purposes of the Father. Now is the time. Every sacrifice will have a testimonial. ***Every act of obedience on our part will have a response on God's part.***

The covenant to Abraham is still intact. Hardship, hatred, and the hand of the enemy will not stop God from bringing His beloved ones to the land of milk and honey. I count it a great privilege, a sacred trust and high honor to be involved with Yahweh in the ingathering of the Jewish people to their ***"Home Land."***

"AND STILL THEY COME"

The wonderful Jewish people from around the globe are still making their way home to Israel. Ezra International has seen a marked increase during 2011 in the number of God's people desiring to return to Israel. We thank God for this increase. With the recent global events taking place we feel such an urgency to assist as many of these precious people as possible while there is still time remaining.

Below is a list of just a few of the various countries of the former Soviet Union where Ezra International is laboring and the number of olim from each country who have made aliyah to Israel during the first six months of 2011:

Azerbaijan: 33	Georgia: 139
Moldova: 73	Ukraine: 665
Moscow & Siberia: 283	
Uzbekistan: 107	

It would have been impossible for these 1,300 Jewish people to escape the terrible poverty and persecution by fleeing to Israel without your financial and prayer support. On their behalf we say a heartfelt "THANK YOU" so very much!

Helping Father's House Kiev, Ukraine



Ezra International has a big heart for the homeless children of Ukraine. From its inception, we have partnered with a now well established and very successful Christian children's home called Father's House. Father's House is situated in a village just outside of Kiev and at present there are 71 children living there in either the house for new children or in the family groupings. In contrast to the stark government orphanages of Ukraine, Father's House is full of life as children are loved and restored from, in many cases, horrendous situations they came out of. In the last couple of years, there has been a marked increase in the number of Father's House children who have been adopted into their own families, either in Ukraine or overseas. Older children at Father's House are prepared for independent living with further education, such as college, university or trade school and are taught living skills.

Father's House runs by faith, with no help from government sources. Bruce Elliott of Ezra International is on their Board and Ezra contributes each month much needed help with running costs. Father's House is very thankful for our assistance and to the people who sponsor children through us. There are, however, always financial challenges to be

met, the current one being the need for a new heating system. The government has passed a new law which means Father's House must have a heating system where the gas pipes are outside of the building and not inside as they currently are. A good part of the work has been completed but there is still a need for finances to finish it before the cold winter arrives.

A Young Boy's Prayers Finally Answered...

Anatoliy's story deeply touched us. His experiences show us the difficulties Jewish people have faced as they wait for the fulfillment of God's promise to bring them home to Israel.

Anatoliy had four siblings. His father went into the Soviet army during World War II and was killed in service. His mother, who was Jewish, married a Russian soldier, Dmitriy. Dmitriy received an early discharge at the very beginning of the war. Times were especially hard, of course, and Anatoliy's mother decided to send three of her children, including Anatoliy, to an orphanage while the rest of the family lived in Minsk, Belarus.

Was it possible for the mother living in the very center of the city not to end up in a Nazi-controlled ghetto? Of course not. She and the eldest brother were separated from Anatoliy's stepfather, Dmitriy, and taken to prison. They were put into a women's cell and were housed there with several other women and a 13-year-old boy. Their cellmates were peasants, believers who conducted Christian meetings in an old hut on the prison grounds. Anatoliy's brother often attended these meetings, and he liked to pray. During their stay in prison, he taught his mother son were often interrogated by the guards, but the God left them.

On July 3, 1945, Minsk was liberated. Russian mother and oldest brother from prison. But of those been sent to the orphanage, only Anatoliy survived. Anatoliy's mother took him from the orphanage, who survived the Holocaust. Anatoliy, his brother, praying together as they continued their lives after the

After Anatoliy grew up, he moved to Moldova the northern part of the country. After the collapse of 1990s, Anatoliy wanted to leave for Israel but his wife Sadly, his wife died and he was left alone. Once his and told him that she would like to leave for Israel. Anatoliy was very glad to hear this, and despite his old age, he gathered all the necessary documents. It was not an easy process, and Anatoliy had to go to Belarus twice to get the needed paperwork. Ezra International's team in Moldova became acquainted with Anatoliy when we went to the north to visit Jewish families there. He begged us for help because their financial state was very difficult. His daughter was divorced and together with her daughter moved into his house. They lived poorly—their only source of income was Anatoliy's small pension.

Anatoliy, his daughter, and his granddaughter were so grateful to our team and to Ezra International's supporters worldwide. It is rare to hear such works of gratitude from anyone as we heard from them. They are now experiencing a wonderful new life in Israel. They are all so thankful for the help from so many Christians who support and love the Jewish people.



to pray with him. Mother and to Whom they prayed never

soldiers freed Anatoliy's three children who had After Minsk was liberated, reuniting their small family and their mother continued war. and with his family lived in the Soviet Union in the early refused to leave Moldova. granddaughter came to him

End of Tax Year Special Gifts

The end of the year is quickly approaching--and with it a wonderful opportunity to make that last minute tax deductible gift to the work of Ezra International. Because Ezra International is a 501-(c)3 not-for-profit organization, all your financial gifts are tax deductible.

Will you prayerfully consider giving a special end-of-the-year gift to enable Ezra International to assist many more of God's Chosen People to return to Israel while there is still time? We presently have over 32,000 Jewish people in our system waiting for our financial help to make aliyah (return to Israel) possible.

Can we tell them that help is on the way because your much-needed gift will arrive before the end of the year?

We would like to thank you in advance for what you are going to do and to wish you all a most blessed Christmas and Holiday Season!

From Ezra's Mailbag



It is always such a blessing to receive letters from the many Jewish people Ezra has assisted in their return to Israel. Here is one such letter we would like to share with you. It is only through your continuing financial gifts that make their new lives possible.

Letters of Thanks from Israel

I was born in Baku, Azerbaijan. Having finished school I entered the Oil Industry University. In 1966 I graduated as an engineer. My family consists of three members. My wife Rafik was also born in Baku. In 2000 she finished medical school but after graduation she did not manage to find a job in her field and that is why she does not work now. My daughter Gulnisa was born in 2006.

I worked at the plant, later found a job in a gas service company, but the salary is very low. It is not enough to provide for a family.

My wife's mother is Jewish by birth. She was very eager to leave for Israel and live on the land of her ancestors. I hope her dream will come true.

I am grateful to your organization for very big help in this. This organization helped us to solve all the difficulties we faced during preparation for our leaving for Israel, and also supported us financially and morally during the execution of documents. My family is very grateful to the authority of Ezra for this help.

We wish you good luck in such a difficult work.

Kamran, Rafik, and Gulnisa
Baku, Azerbaijan