



House of Israel International Ministries



שלחות בית ישראל בן לאומית
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Abiding in the hope of Israel. www.hoisrael.org

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Ethiopian Jewish News Update

Through your compassionate and generous help we have been able to help many Messianic Jewish families in Ethiopia.

They may have different needs, but they share a number of things in common.

They love Messiah Yeshua. They want to make Aliyah to Israel. They want a decent place to live. They want to work. They want to send their children to school. They struggle daily to survive.

While the House of Israel International Ministries (HIIM) has had the privilege to help many, thanks to you, there are some situations that stand out in my mind . . .

Wasse and Asmarech have three children who cannot go to school because they must help the family make ends meet. On top of that Asmarech suffers from breast cancer. Shouldn't the HIIM ease their situation by providing medicine and comfort?

We did provide medicine and comfort.

Derso and Liya and their three children have been waiting to make Aliyah since 1999. They struggle daily because they would not renounce their faith in Yeshua, even though it would have made it easier for them to immigrate. Doesn't having such a strong faith deserve to be supported by us?

It does, which is why we lead services and Bible studies for families like Derso's in Ethiopia.

Teshager and Nigist have languished in Gondar since 2000. They have six children, the oldest ones of whom do very physical labor that requires long distances. This prevents them from attending school. Don't these children deserve the opportunity to get an education?

We made it possible for them to attend school.

Zemenua and Bezuye have one son, Nigusie. Zemenua was ill with a serious leg condition. Since 2001 they have awaited approval to make Aliyah to Israel. Shouldn't the HIIM help this family out with food and with sending Nigusie to school?

We provided food and a scholarship for Nigusie.

Zina and Berhan are 13- and 15-year-old sisters who came to Gondar with their parents in 2000. Two years later their father was struck with HIV and passed away. Then their mother came down with HIV. What will happen to these sisters if HIIM doesn't step in to help?

We did step in to help this family.

The Kayaffer village, two hours away from Gondar, is home to over 500 Ethiopian Jews. The entire community is suffering financially, spiritually, and economically. These people don't have clean water and they have no land to support themselves. Couldn't digging a well and helping them to lease land so they could grow crops and tend livestock make a profound difference in their lives?

We dug a well and helped them lease land.

The needs among the Beta Israel Messianic Jews in Ethiopia often seem overwhelming. Daily, as we minister to them, we are faced with the reality that we can't help everyone. Our hearts cry out to help more families but the harsh reality is we must make hard decisions as to who we can help. That weighs heavily on me and our workers on the ground in Ethiopia, but we are reminded in Matthew 25 that we are nevertheless called to help the *least of these* as best we can . . .

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

You can alleviate pain and suffering. You can bring needed blessing to the least of these and even save lives through your prayers and gifts. I wish you could be there with us in Ethiopia to witness firsthand the renewed hope and strength your compassionate generosity gives these families. You don't have to be there to know that what you do for the *least of these* blesses our Father.

Thank you for sending the best gift you can at this time of urgent need.

Sincerely,



Kokeb Gedamu

Messianic Rabbi and Founder

House of Israel International Ministries

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