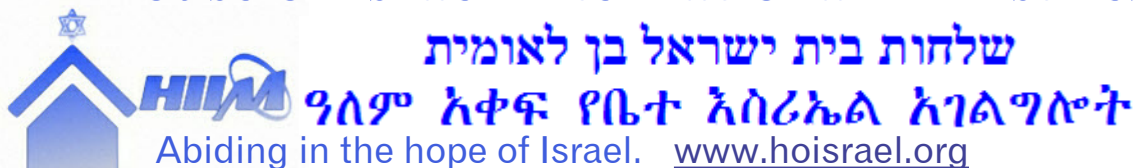




# House of Israel International Ministries



P.O.Box 143 Wynnewood, PA 19096 Tel. (610) 348 4733 Fax (610) 789 2920

November 2009

Ethiopian Jewish News Update

## **BLATANT RACISM TOWARD ETHIOPIANS IN ISRAEL REPORTED**

Almost on a daily basis the House of Israel International Ministries (HIIM) deals with the challenges Ethiopian-Israelis face. It's frustrating enough to see the Beta Israel struggle with learning a new language, securing decent housing and employment, learning new job skills, and providing clothing and food for their families. Our ministry provides assistance in all these areas, thanks to the loving support of friends like you.

But, when the Beta Israel encounter out-and-out racism in Israel, I believe a line has been crossed that is frightening and extremely dangerous . . .



Recently a young Ethiopian Israeli woman was barred from boarding a bus in the Tev Aviv area, simply because she was "Black". That was what the bus driver told her when she tried to board. You may have read the full incident on our website. The bus driver's behavior was clearly unacceptable and blatantly racist.



While the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) and the bus company have launched an investigation over the matter, what concerns me greatly is the underlying attitude some Israelis may have toward the Beta Israel *olim* (newcomers). That attitude crops up when the Beta Israel try to communicate in Hebrew to Israelis on everyday matters. It manifests itself when they seek employment and housing.

Add to this that many of them are believers in Yeshua and there is cause to believe that full acceptance does not yet exist. Ethiopians have been in Israel now for 18 years, yet they are still not fully assimilated into society. I believe that full acceptance will come in time for the Beta Israel. It is to Israel's benefit that it welcome these Jews, just as it has welcomed Jews from elsewhere in the world.

But, the reality today is that thousands of Ethiopian-Israelis need help, some even on a daily basis. HIIM is on the ground in Israel to provide that needed aid.

*HIIM helps with Hebrew-language classes.* Hebrew-fluent Ethiopian-Israelis lead classes, making it easier for the new language to be learned.

*HIIM advocates on behalf of those needing decent housing* and all the benefits any new citizen would be entitled to.

*HIIM sponsors students attending vocational schools,* so they can learn job skills that will make them needed in Israeli society.

*HIIM provides food and other basics to struggling families* who are having difficulty making ends meet.

We help out as best we can, thanks to you, in all these areas, but don't misunderstand an important fact . . .

Ethiopian-Israelis are not complainers. I have yet to encounter any Beta Israelis, regardless of their dire circumstances, who are not grateful to be living in Israel and who do not want to fully integrate into their ancestral homeland.

With all the needs that exist among our people, I have nowhere else to turn but to friends like you. Please consider sending a much-needed gift to help us extend the love of Messiah Yeshua to the Beta Israel in Israel. Your gift will not just be a demonstration of your compassion, but it will also be an investment in the current and future generations of Ethiopian-Israelis.

Sincerely,

***Kokeb Gedamu***

Messianic Rabbi and

HIIM Founder

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