

3RD QUARTER 2019



JEWISH VOICE TODAY MAGAZINE



ETHIOPIA OUTREACH: RADICAL OPENNESS AND UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITIES

IN THIS WORLD WE WILL HAVE TROUBLE
by Rabbi Jonathan Bernis

**10 OUTREACH PRAYER
NEEDS THAT WILL
SURPRISE YOU!**



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This handy tote has so many uses. Made of heavy polypropylene, it's both lightweight and durable. At 15 x 13 x 10 inches, the main compartment is big enough for grocery shopping. Plus, the covered bottom and reinforced 20-inch handles ensure it can carry a full load.



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SHALOM



Dear Partner in Ministry,

As you read through this quarter's edition of *Jewish Voice Today*, you'll be taken directly to the frontlines with our Medical Outreach teams.

And I'm excited for you to have the experience, because these Outreaches are the very foundation of the work we do at Jewish Voice Ministries International: providing spiritual and physical care to God's Chosen People. Even in the most remote areas of Africa where the "Lost Tribes" have been found.

Through incredible stories and photos, you'll be on the ground with our teams – seeing their stories of faith, impact and transformation. And you'll also discover the amazing work God can and will do when we're willing to put our lives into His hands.

That's the life He's called us to, in service to His Kingdom for the sake of the Gospel: *"the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."*

first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" (Romans 1:16, NIV).

We live in incredible times. Never before has supporting the Jewish people been more important. And so many times, God uses our Medical Outreaches as a way to open the doors to share the truth of Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah to the Jewish people we are there to serve.

I hope God will use this edition of *Jewish Voice Today* to guide you in how to pray more effectively for the Jewish people. But I also hope it will inspire you to get more involved in this ministry work.

May God bless you!

To the Jew first and also to the Nations,

Jonathan Bernis
Jonathan Bernis



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IN THIS WORLD WE WILL HAVE TROUBLE



BY JONATHAN BERNIS

International travel can be daunting. There are bags to pack, planes to catch, long waits in remote airports, and the nerve-racking work of stepping into a culture that's often so very different from our own.

Yet our JVMI staff and team of Outreach Partners take trips like these repeatedly throughout the year. We risk lost luggage, homesickness, physical discomfort, and even illness as we embark overseas to bring international quality medical care in the name of Yeshua to His Jewish people scattered across the globe, as well as their neighbors. Oftentimes we also risk facing local authorities who are suspicious of our work, or even outright hostile.

And in fact, we risk much more. We risk angering a powerful enemy. Satan "hates the light" (John 3:20). And Yeshua's light is what our team is bringing to His people around the world.



"IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE..."

During our Outreaches, teams of volunteers set up medical tents as well as a Counseling and Spiritual Care tent, which patients are invited to visit after they've been seen by our trained medical workers. In the Counseling and Spiritual Care tent, our team members pray for each person's physical and spiritual needs. We often share the Good News with them, and we ask Yeshua (Jesus) to heal their wounds and to show them that He is their Messiah.

Last summer, a team from JVMI was offering free medical care to the Jewish people and their neighbors in the small Ethiopian community of Enfranz. We knew we'd face hostility there from Ethiopians who are members of the local Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which promotes prayer to Mary and other saints as well as other extra-biblical practices. They have a tradition in which they fast twice a week – usually Wednesdays and Fridays – out of zeal for their faith. The Muslim faith also has a stronghold in this region – sadly, Islam has grown to approximately 35 percent of the population in Ethiopia in the past decade.

And so several local Ethiopian officials were fasting during the time of our Outreach in Enfranz. And they were angry that we – a community of Believers in Yeshua the Messiah – had come to the area. In the middle of the week, one of our local team members heard an Ethiopian official speaking Amharic, the local language, on his cell phone. "We are going to find the spiritual activity here," our team member heard him say, "and we are going to shut it down." Our team prayed for protection.

That afternoon, a powerful rainstorm blew in unexpectedly. The winds violently collapsed our

Spiritual Care tent. Some of our staff were injured, including one woman who suffered a painful shoulder injury and others who suffered head wounds. The tent itself was broken beyond repair.

The team was shaken. But they boldly set up a makeshift intercessory prayer tent back at their campsite, and they continued to pray for the people of Enfranz throughout the rest of the Outreach.

These frightening incidents often remind us of Satan's hold on the world. Ever since that fateful day when

Adam and Eve first believed the serpent's lies and took a bite of the fruit in the garden, God gave him some of the authority over the Earth.

In the book of Luke, Yeshua heals a Jewish woman he says was "incapacitated by Satan for 18 years" (13:16). In the book of Acts, the disciple Peter describes Yeshua as a rabbi who "went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (10:38). It's clear that physical illness, pain, hard-heartedness and even mental illness are often caused by Satan. In fact we know that many of the people we see on our Medical Outreaches are

suffering from this very oppression.

**This is spiritual warfare,
and we don't take it lightly.**

It makes sense, then, that as JVMI seeks to heal physical wounds and bring peace and comfort to people on our Outreaches, Satan would be angered. We know that the rulers, powers, and worldly forces of darkness are working against us at every turn to disrupt the work we do (Ephesians 6:12). But the stakes are even higher than that. Because we don't offer physical aid and then leave – we offer living water, too: the chance to know Yeshua as Messiah. There is nothing in this world that angers Satan more.



Our JVMI team of Outreach Partners are dedicated to delivering quality medical care in the name of Yeshua.



So while we pray for God’s protection, impactful medical care and worry-free interactions with local authorities, we know we will still face trouble.

THE ROOTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

The spiritual warfare we encounter in our work at JVMI has its roots in an age-old struggle. Satan hates the Jewish people because they are His Chosen People. In the 12th Chapter of Revelation, we read about a “dragon” who rages against all of mankind, but especially against the “woman who had given birth to the male child.” Read in context, it’s clear this “dragon” refers to Satan. The “male child” is Yeshua, the Messiah; and the woman? That’s God’s covenant people, Israel, through whom Yeshua came to the world.

Yeshua’s atoning death on the tree and His victory over death three days later secured a definitive defeat over Satan, and he knows that. Yet evil remains in the world for now. That tells us that Genesis 3:15 – where God tells us that we will ultimately “crush Satan’s head” – hasn’t yet been fulfilled in its entirety. Yeshua tells us that will happen when He returns and the final enemy, death, is defeated (see 1 Corinthians 15:24-26).

I want you to consider, for a moment, what it’s like when a storm blows in. Just like the rainstorm that brought down our Counseling and Spiritual Care tent in Enfranz, powerful weather is often preceded by small signs that hint at what’s to come. The sky may darken, the temperature drops. Wind picks up. Even animals will sometimes scatter to safety. These signs often clue us in about the thunder, lightning, rain and wind that is to follow.

In the same way, as more and more of God’s covenant people turn back to Messiah, the devil rightly interprets this as a sign of his impending doom. Jesus came first through the Jewish people. And He will return when the Jewish people cry out “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:39). As promised in Romans 11:26, “all Israel will be saved.” This is a harbinger of Satan’s ultimate defeat – so it’s no wonder he zealously despises Jewish people.

And it’s no wonder he despises *our work* – we are, after all, openly and boldly proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua *directly to the Jewish people* and many are being saved!

ANTI-SEMITISM ON OUR OUTREACHES

So we are not surprised when we encounter deep-seated hatred for Jewish people (and us) during many of our Outreaches, including in Ethiopia. Many rural Ethiopians have little knowledge of European anti-Semitism or even of the Holocaust, and yet they believe many of the same hateful superstitions about the Jews. Many actually believe that Jewish people turn into hyenas at night, or cast spells to make others sick, or even that they eat Christian children!

While we are committed to treating anyone and everyone, not just Jewish people, at our Medical Clinics, we make it clear when we visit that we are there because there are Jewish people in the area.

We do that for two reasons: first, to demonstrate to the local communities that something *good* has happened because the Jewish people are in their midst. And secondly, we do it because we want to demonstrate the love Yeshua has for His covenant people. We want them to know that He loves them and desperately desires that they would know their Messiah.

HOW WE DO BATTLE

We aren’t surprised by the troubles we find abroad, and we aren’t unprepared either. We spend weeks and even months before our Outreaches praying with each other (and with you!) back home. And we are strategic in our preparations and our prayers.

For example, remember the Orthodox Ethiopians who fast every Wednesday and Friday in worship to idols? Our teams have now committed to fasting each Wednesday during our Outreaches there as well. And we know that the name that *we* call upon – the name of Yeshua – is above every other name; and that we can conquer the powers of evil by “the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11)!

The spiritual warfare we face is increasing, but so are the victories. The Lord has responded to our prayers and fasting, and earlier this year, we broke all of our previous records and treated more than 17,000 people in one Outreach alone! (That was in Ambo Meda, Ethiopia.)

In other words, we are seeing fruit. Yeshua is coming back soon, and we are preparing our own hearts and those of His people. So, please, continue to pray, and take heart. For Yeshua declared in John 16:33, “In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world!” 🙏



Shout joyfully to Adonai,

all the earth. Break forth, sing for joy, and sing praises. Sing praises to Adonai with the harp, with the harp and a voice of melody. With trumpets and sound of the shofar blast a sound before the King, Adonai.

– PSALM 98:4-6



Colors, textures, and finishes vary in these natural horns but all are beautiful and fully functional. Silver trim designs vary. Sizes of the Large Kudu Shofar range between 36–40 inches in length including curvature.

Throughout Scripture, the shofar has been at the center of the nation of Israel and God's Chosen People. Shofars have traditionally heralded the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and ended the day of fasting on Yom Kippur. Even to this day, the shofar is a part of Jewish culture, especially in Israel.

This beautiful shofar is made of a Kudu horn and exquisitely adorned with handcrafted silver-plated accents. It is sure to be a treasured keepsake for you and your family for years to come.

It is our special gift of thanks to you when you partner with JVMI with a **gift of \$1000 or more** to help transform lives through the love of Yeshua (Jesus) and see all Israel saved.

Just use the enclosed form to request this extraordinary silver-plated shofar with our deepest gratitude.

*Thank you for standing with us
as together we stand with Israel
and God's Chosen People.*



CHOOSING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED



BY PAUL WILLIAMS

Bet you can't eat just one!" was a well-known catch phrase of an advertisement of Lay's potato chips in the 1980s. Being involved with over 200 medical mission trips in scores of countries I often challenged newcomers and those considering joining a mission trip with the quip, "I betcha can't just go on one! Mission trips are addictive!" I warned.

Few things in my life have been as rewarding as touching the lives of hurting people around the world, whether due to extreme poverty or natural or manmade disasters. My decision to enter the field of medicine and follow the path of medical missions has been the God-directed destiny for my life. It has been a "road less traveled," yet I cannot imagine a more fulfilling path for my life.

I have chronicled my journey in my book *Decisions Determine Destiny*. At age sixteen I prayed, "I want some excitement in my life!" God answered my prayer beyond all expectations when I obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In *Decisions Determine Destiny* I wrote, "Nothing can replace the adventure of following God's leading. Nothing comes close. Taking the narrow road, as spoken by Jesus, or the road less traveled, as Robert Frost wrote, 'makes all the difference.'"

I have met many healthcare professionals who have expressed a desire to do medical missions "someday," but comparatively few actually follow through.

In my book I wrote: My father used to tell me, "The price of spiritual progress is obedience to the known will of God." He explained, "If you know at least the next step God wants you to take – then take it. Don't wait for the complete picture to come into view!"

I challenge you to obey the inner desire you may have to step out and "take the plunge." Join a JVMI Medical Outreach if you sense the leading of the Holy Spirit.

One nurse, following a Medical Outreach in Kechene, Ethiopia, wrote, "It was such an awe-inspiring experience that at times I still have trouble processing in my mind that God chose me...to go to Africa. I now understand what it really means when people say

that something for them was life changing."

In 1997 the Lord directed me to reach out to the Jewish Diaspora. I share this life transforming juncture in *Decisions Determine Destiny*. A year later I was leading the first medical team to the Diaspora joining a Hear O' Israel! Festival of Jewish Music & Dance Outreach with Jonathan Bernis in Budapest, Hungary: *Decisions do determine destiny!*

One of my most memorable trips with Jonathan Bernis was the outreach to the Jewish Diaspora in Gondar, Ethiopia. The needs were so great. The crowds bent the metal gates pushing to get inside the compound for medical treatment!

There were about 5,000 Beta Israel refugees living nearby. We were denied permission to work directly in the refugee camp. Some of the refugees were afraid to come to the Medical Clinic concerned it might jeopardize their opportunity to make aliyah (Jewish people returning to their homeland of Israel). However, many Jewish refugees did make their way into the Clinic and some received Yeshua! One beautiful Jewish woman with striking features and a very unusual hair color that was more purplish than auburn came to the Clinic. She proudly showed me her documents proving her Jewish identity. She received Yeshua!

“ If you know at least the next step God wants you to take – then take it. Don't wait for the complete picture to come into view! ”





The Gondar Medical Outreach was the first of many transformative Jewish Voice Outreaches to Ethiopia. There are three distinct Jewish communities in Addis Abba. The Beta Israel (House of Israel) and Beta Abraham (House of Abraham) and the Gefat (also known as Fuga or “blowers of the shofar”). Each community received medical care in the name of Yeshua.

On a separate Medical Outreach to Addis Abba, we held a Clinic among the Beta Israel community, estimated to be around 15,000. Hanging on the walls of their synagogue were banners with the list of community members who had died, waiting years for Israel to recognize them as Jews and permit them to make aliyah to Israel! Recently many of them were granted permission to emigrate to Israel. God’s purposes were intersecting in the poorest and most desolate of places.

Descendants of the tribe of Levi have been discovered in Zimbabwe, prompting JVMI to bring medical

teams there to reach this “Lost Tribe of Israel.”

I have led four medical teams to Zimbabwe (not with JVMI) and the thought occurred to me that our medical teams might have been ministering to some of these descendants of Levi. I distinctly remember sensing the Spirit of the Lord in a very unusual way in the humble congregation where we held our clinics. I remember thinking, *God, your presence is so strong in this very remote area! You are amazing! Thank you for your presence!*

Jewish Voice has also reached out to the Diaspora with medical teams to Russia (including Siberia), Ukraine, India, Moldova and other nations.

In *Decisions Determine Destiny*, I share the stories of thousands of people receiving not only medical care but also medicine for the soul. In my experience many of the medical team members have not shared their faith with their patients at home and actually feel awkward in doing so in these outreach settings. But,

JVMI Outreach Partners are taught the joy of sharing their faith with the patients and having them receive Yeshua.

Partners return home with a renewed desire to share Yeshua in their community and at work. Most become more active in their church or congregation outreaches and increase their giving to missions!

Is it possible that your destiny includes a Medical Outreach with Jewish Voice Ministries?

A person does not need to have a medical background to join the teams. Assisting doctors and nurses examining patients, crowd control, cleaning dental instruments, assisting eye doctors dispensing reading glasses, assisting in the pharmacy or praying with patients in the counseling area are all opportunities for

Outreach Partners without a medical background.

You may not be able to join a medical team, but you can pray and give to make these trips possible. Together we can make an eternal difference.

Ask the Lord if you should join one of the Jewish Voice Medical Outreaches. Your decision may well not only determine the destiny of those you serve, but your own destiny as well! Prayerfully consider joining a JVMI medical team. Your life will never be the same.

“I betcha can’t just go on one! Mission trips are addictive!” You can’t say I didn’t warn you! 🇲🇵

To learn more about choosing the road less traveled, please visit paulwilliamsmd.com to get your copy of *Decisions Determine Destiny* by Paul Williams.



RADICAL OPENNESS & UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITIES

BY EZRA BENJAMIN



Leading our Global Outreach Department affords me not only the privilege of participating in our Medical Outreaches among hurting Jewish communities and their neighbors, but also the great honor of traveling several times annually to far-flung areas around the world where we have learned that a historically Jewish community may be living. Some of these exploratory journeys are just down the road from areas where Jewish Voice is already ministering, and others take us to new areas, new regions, in the midst of new political and religious circumstances, where we never could have imagined we would go in Jewish ministry. One such exploratory trip led us to the almost entirely Muslim city of Jijiga, Ethiopia, on the border with the hotly-contested and UN-unrecognized startup nation called Somaliland.

The Jijiga area, as well as Somaliland, are home to two related tribes, called the Yibir and the Yizak. The Yibir, a derivative of the word “*Hebrew*” in Somali, and the Yizak, meaning “*Isaac*” in the same language, both identify as historically Jewish and live either tensely amidst, or pushed to the outskirts of, predominately Muslim cities and towns throughout the region. These two clans are historically related to the larger Ethiopian Jewish community which lives in central and northern Ethiopia and which traces its own roots all the way back to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Yet they look tribally Somali, speak the Somali language, and today live in Islamic communities severed almost entirely from their Jewish relatives across the country.

My exploratory journey took me on a one-hour plane ride from the green rolling hills of predominately-Orthodox Christian Addis Ababa to the low desert scrub and endless plains of a predominately-Muslim Somali region of Ethiopia. As we disembarked the propeller plane and drove from the airstrip into the crowded city streets where women covered almost entirely in bourkas rushed around to shop before the minarets would announce the mid-day call to prayer, I thought to myself, “how did my ‘yes’ to Jewish missions and our ‘yes’ to the Lord as a ministry to meet and minister to our people even to the ends of the earth, *ever* lead us here?!”

As I somewhat apprehensively approached the cafe table where the ‘Sultan’ (leader) of the regional Yibir tribe awaited our meeting which a local mutual friend had arranged, I was confused to see an older man with a worn suit jacket and a golden Muslim prayer cap sitting staring off into nowhere, slowly working a dark brown set of Muslim prayer beads through his fingers one-by-one. My translator introduced us in Somali. No sooner could I stretch out my right hand to give a good, firm American handshake than the Sultan half stood out of his chair and grabbed my arm with both hands, his left hand holding my elbow and not letting go. He immediately switched to English and through a thick accent exclaimed, “You are my cousin!” I slowly sat down, not knowing what to make of such a warm and excited greeting from a man who looked almost no different from the elders lounging down the street on the steps of the mosque.

Again, still not knowing what to make of this unlikely meeting, I said, “I’m Ezra from Jewish Voice. It’s an

honor to meet you, Sultan.” Before I could finish the sentence, the Sultan exclaimed, “We are brothers. Because we come from Israel. And though God scattered us, He will regather us! We are not like *them*. We do not come from here! We come from Israel!” I was speechless. Who was this man sitting in front of me who, apart from this confession, I would have mistaken for any other Somali senior citizen in town and left him alone to his thoughts and his prayer beads? Why was he so willing to reveal the identity and destiny of his people to a man he had met not one minute before? How, so isolated in a community so openly hostile toward all things Israel and Jewish, could this Sultan so aptly articulate how he and his people ended up here and that they didn’t belong here? But before I could adequately answer these questions, I responded in the only way I knew how from our other meetings with emerging historically Jewish communities in Africa and beyond: “Jewish Voice serves our Jewish people wherever we are in the world. And we’ve come here for you.”

Later on, we took a trip to a known Yibir slum on the edge of town. There were noticeably fewer mosques in the area, but also noticeably less infrastructure. On the street corner, under a tattered tarp fastened to a barbed wire fence and a broken utility pole, sat a man in a white t-shirt fanning the flames of a makeshift blacksmith station made of spare parts. Through a translator, we asked him why he was sitting outside on the street corner rather than on the street. “Because I cannot rent property,” the blacksmith replied. I asked through the translator why that was. The translator dialogued briefly with the man, then replied, “It’s because I’m Jewish,” he says.” I said, “You mean he said it’s because he’s Yibir,” thinking surely the translator was either confused or was putting words in his mouth. Another brief dialogue with the blacksmith. The translator confirmed to us, “no, he said it’s because he’s *Jewish*.”

As I was struggling to process how it was that a man on the street in a Muslim city could possibly have understood that he was being denied the opportunity at a more productive livelihood not just based on a tribal identity but due to a *Jewish* identity, a young girl came up and grabbed my forearm and shouted something in Somali, looking me straight in the eye. I asked the translator what she had exclaimed, and he said that she had shouted, “you are our uncle!”

In the weeks and months which followed, our unlikely meeting with Sultan Mahamed led to our interactions with members of what was clearly a historically Jewish community struggling to maintain its unique identity amidst poverty, displacement and persecution. This led us to plan and hold our first Medical Outreach among the Yibir and their neighbors. Officials who should have shut the doors on a largely unknown Messianic ministry not only signed the required permissions but committed to make sure of our success and safety. Local medical professionals should have balked at the opportunity to serve alongside Jewish people but didn’t and Christians welcomed the experience and even said to us at the end, “You’ve brought the blessing of God!”

Yibir and Yizak families and community elders who have only known suspicion and persecution from outsiders sat with us in tea shops and under scrub trees and listened to a message that God has not forgotten our people but has come to find us and have mercy upon us.

Our “yes” to the Lord as a ministry, even in our limited understanding, to manifest the heart of the Lord to reach out and regather our people back to Himself, led us to places we would never have imagined and opened doors which no man could seemingly have opened.

As I’ve shared before, I am more excited now about the ministry opportunities and open doors in our reach than I have been in ten years of ministry here at Jewish Voice. The challenges – economic, political, security-related, religious and in regard to spiritual warfare, are tremendous. But these opportunities are simply too incredible to ignore. As I travel around the world doing my part to catalyze outreach and the planting of indigenous Messianic Jewish faith communities on behalf of Jewish Voice, I can’t help but think – and thank the Lord – we just might be a part of the fulfillment of the things the prophets penned and longed to see! I’ll be back in the coming months to share what the Lord is doing through Jewish Voice among the Yibir and with the other Jewish groups with whom we have both new and ongoing ministry opportunities. Thanks for your prayers! For courage, boldness and even more open doors! In Yeshua’s Name. Amen. 🇲

The situation is clear. The Jewish people in Ethiopia need our help...and they need it right now!

They are some of the most impoverished and persecuted people in the world, but often they are forgotten and ignored.

Every day is a struggle just to survive. But beyond that, they face horrible persecution and discrimination. They are mistrusted and often hated by their neighbors. Some are even victims of violent attacks. Education and employment opportunities are limited. Many don't even have access to the most basic necessities of life.

As you read this Outreach report today, there are thousands of Ethiopian Jews in need, fighting for their very lives!

There is very little in the way of medical care available to them. These precious men, women and children are dying for lack of the basic health and medical supplies that we're privileged to take for granted.

They can't just walk into a corner drug store and pick up cough medicine for their sick child.

They don't have a 24-hour urgent care clinic to take their baby when she has a 103-degree fever.

Blindness is widespread but could

be easily prevented with a few simple medications, but they just aren't available.

Even a toothache left untreated can become a life-threatening infection for lack of available medical treatment.

As you can see, the need is extremely urgent.

Every time we go to Ethiopia to hold Medical Outreach Clinics in these communities, thousands of people walk for hours...or even days...to see a doctor – many of them for the first time in their lives.

They are in desperate need, both physically and spiritually.

To help serve the spiritual needs in these communities, we are helping local Messianic leaders to plant congregations in areas where we are holding our Outreaches. These areas have never had congregations in them before.

We've seen the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk again...and so much more!

But above all else, the mission of Jewish Voice Ministries is to introduce Jewish people to a saving knowledge of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. That's the greatest miracle of all!

We can't do it without your prayers and financial support. But if you will stand with us, together we can make an enormous impact on some of the most impoverished Jewish people in the world.

Your financial support is needed now more than ever. With growing open hostility toward Israel and anti-Semitism becoming more and more commonplace and "acceptable," we must take a stand and do all we can to show love and compassion to Israel and God's Chosen People.

You can do that today when you send your best gift of support. Your generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of Jewish people – not only in Ethiopia, but around the world.

We can bring them much-needed life-saving medical care, but even more importantly, we can bring them the soul-saving Good News of Yeshua, the Messiah!



OUR THANK YOU GIFTS TO YOU

As you give today, we want to thank you with these gifts of appreciation. It means so much to have you standing by our side as together we stand with Israel. Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support.

For your gift of \$40 or more:

Africa Bracelet

This bracelet will be a fashionable reminder of the beautiful people of Africa whose lives you touch with humanitarian aid and the Gospel when you give to Jewish Voice. Brown wooden beads are strung on black cording with a silver-toned Africa-shaped metal bead at the center.



2153

Comfort, O Comfort My People, Photo Book

This beautiful coffee table book of photographs and stories chronicles Jewish Voice's outreach to this lovely but impoverished people. See how your support has uplifted and helped the poorest of the poor Jewish people of Ethiopia. This 80-page soft-cover book measures 8.5" x 11".

For your gift of \$120 or more:

Africa Bracelet

Comfort, O Comfort My People, Photo Book

The Lost Tribes of Israel, Softcover Coffee Table Book

Join us on a journey as we reveal the ancient story of the "Lost Tribes of Israel" and uncover pockets of Jewish people found in surprising places all around the globe. Catch a glimpse into their lives today and how Jewish Voice Ministries International has come alongside them with humanitarian aid and the love of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah.



2154

Lost Tribes Map

See where communities of people from the "Lost Tribes of Israel" have been identified today. Trace the ancient Silk Route that many from the Ten Northern Tribes of Israel followed as they were dispersed by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. See where Jewish Voice Ministries International (JVMI) serves "Lost Tribes" communities and learn about the various groups of Jewish people there. Map includes photos from JVMI humanitarian aid projects. Printed on sturdy, high-quality paper with a matte finish, this map measures 36" x 24". Suitable for framing, it will look beautiful on your wall and is sure to be a conversation piece.

For your gift of \$225 or more:

Africa Bracelet

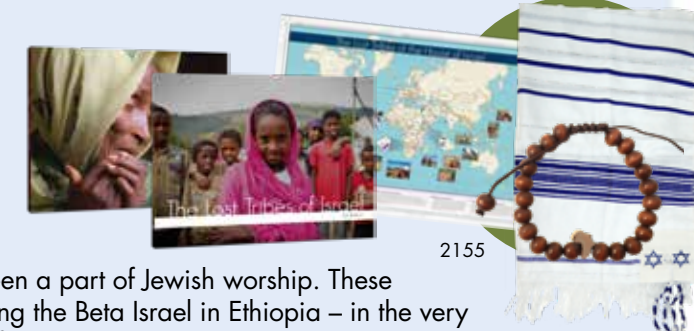
Comfort, O Comfort My People, Photo Book

The Lost Tribes of Israel, Softcover Coffee Table Book

Lost Tribes Map

Prayer Shawl/Ethiopian Tallit

For centuries the prayer shawl, or tallit (tah-LEET), has been a part of Jewish worship. These beautiful prayer shawls are handmade by weavers among the Beta Israel in Ethiopia – in the very communities we help. Colors vary, and all are finely crafted garments to use and treasure as a reminder of the people whose lives you have helped transform. Dimensions: 70" x 25.5".



2155

For your gift of \$1000 or more:

Large Silver-Trimmed Kudu Shofar

This beautiful shofar is made of a Kudu horn and is exquisitely adorned with handcrafted silver-plated accents. In ancient days, the shofar was blown to announce the beginning of religious holidays, ceremonies and even battle. Today, the shofar is sounded at the feasts of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Colors, textures, and finishes vary in these natural horns, but all are beautiful and fully functional. Sizes range between 36–40 inches in length, including curvature.



3073

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT.



YOU IMPACTED THEIR LIVES... THANK YOU!

Infection, dehydration, injuries and disease – all of these can be life-threatening without the intervention you provided through JVML's Medical Outreach to Ambo Meda, Ethiopia this year.

Through your support, infants, children and adults received the help they needed but otherwise could not afford. Some people even walked for hours or days to receive the medical, dental and eye care you made possible.



You changed 17,787 lives in Ambo Meda, Ethiopia!

You saved lives, restored sight, relieved pain and provided safe drinking water to these thousands of people. On top of all this, you also delivered the message of Yeshua's love for each one. **The difference you made in their lives is astounding. Thank you so much!**

10 OUTREACH PRAYER NEEDS THAT WILL SURPRISE YOU!

JVMI STAFF WRITER



Prayer is essential to the effectiveness of every Jewish Voice Outreach.

Obstacles of all sizes threaten to impede the work we do around

the world, especially in remote locations where we conduct Medical Clinics. Many times, after struggling with various problems during the day, our teams have seen the resolution come in the evening – right around the time our staff is

praying for the Outreach in the morning – half a world and 10 time zones away.

Some prayer needs for our work in the field are obvious. But others may not be. Here are 10 things you can pray about when Jewish Voice takes teams to various locations in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and elsewhere.

1. SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

The practical aspects of preparing for an Outreach are so immediate that it might be easy to forget how essential spiritual preparation is. Spending extra time with the Lord in the weeks ahead of departure, hearing His voice and entrusting any concerns to Him regarding the Outreach is an integral part of the ministry once there. *Pray* for each Outreach Partner and staff member to begin

their trip already invested in spiritual preparation so they will serve with vigor and joy each day.

2. TIME DIFFERENCES

Jet lag is real. Many partners have sprung wide awake at 1 or 2 a.m. with vivid thoughts and precious faces from the day running through his or her mind. Unable to go back to sleep, rest eludes them when they need it most. *Pray* for adequate sleep, getting in sync with local time, and for God to use any wakeful night hours to meet with Outreach Partners in special ways.

3. HIRED LOCAL WORKERS

Aside from approximately 40 Outreach Partners, a typical Medical Outreach also requires about 100 local workers. They are laborers, cooks, runners and translators. They help manage patient flow through the Clinic and assist with every aspect of the Outreach. Many of them are not Believers. *Pray* for these people to see the love of Yeshua (Jesus) in action and come to know Him as Messiah. Pray also for honesty, good attitudes, a strong work ethic and that they are supportive of what we're doing.

4. TRANSLATION

A clear understanding between partners and locals is vital – in the lines, examination rooms and the prayer room. Without local translators, we couldn't conduct Medical Outreaches. This important relationship comes with its own challenges. Sentence structure, vocabulary and accents can sometimes make it difficult to understand one another even when speaking the same language. *Pray* for workers to have an excellent understanding of English and for accurate interpretations and comprehension for everyone involved throughout the Clinic and prayer room.

5. WEATHER

We plan Outreaches with the weather in mind, scheduling to avoid extreme seasons. Even so, we've experienced disruptive storms, cold and

heat. Much of our operation is conducted under open-sided tents and on bare ground. Also, thousands of people travel to the Clinic on foot and wait in the elements to receive care. Many even spend the night sleeping on the ground to maintain their place in line. *Pray* for mild weather, both day and night, during JVMI Medical Outreaches as well as on set-up and take-down days.

6. INTENSITY AND PACE

Our Outreach Partners accomplish a lot of work in a short amount of time. An intense week of ministry goes by fast, and afterward, some may wonder if their efforts really made a difference. *Pray* for strength and vigor throughout the week. Pray also for partners to have the assurance that, amid the blur of some 10,000 patients moving through the Clinic, their work touched individual lives in profound ways.

7. OVERWHELMING NEED

Seeing such poverty can be heartbreaking. And when the Clinic comes to an end, we often have to turn people away because there is more need than resources or time. It's a challenge faced at every Outreach: entrusting to God those we weren't able to treat while rejoicing over the thousands we did. *Pray* that God comforts and encourages partners as they process all that they are experiencing as He enables them to celebrate the tremendous help given to so many.

8. DIFFERENCES

When working overseas, one expects to encounter cultural differences with the



locals. New sights, foods, and customs require a spirit of grace and adaptability. It may be surprising to realize, however, that the same spirit of generosity may be necessary within the team itself, which is composed of Believers with differing nationalities, worship backgrounds and doctrinal nuances. Pray for partners to accentuate their common ground, work together in unity and have grace in the face of so many differences in the ministry environment.

9. FOLLOW-UP RELATIONSHIPS

Follow-up is essential to ensuring that new Believers grow strong in their faith. Local congregational leaders visit and disciple those who accepted Yeshua during the Outreach or who have questions. However, those relationships begin during the Outreach itself – in the prayer room, perhaps even in examination rooms and in seemingly “random” divine appointments amid the bustle of the Clinic. **Pray** for God to start developing significant relationships during the Clinic week that will lead to even more effective

and widespread ministry and discipleship later.

10. RE-ENTRY BACK HOME

After an Outreach, it may be hard to simply glide back into normal life. Processing everything – mentally, emotionally and spiritually – takes some time. It can be somewhat challenging to know how to go back to everyday life and still carry in your heart the people and poverty you’ve encountered. **Pray** for Outreach Partners as they come home deeply impacted by what they have seen and the work they have done. Pray for God to help them both re-engage with their regular lives as well as live out the transformation He has done in them through their experience.

Your prayers make a difference. We need them. We rely on them, and we are extremely grateful for them.

Don’t forget to check out the detailed lists of day-by-day prayer points posted on our website ahead of each Outreach. Find them at www.jewishvoice.org/pray. 📖

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It's All Him!



JEWISH VOICE STAFF WRITER

“We were nervous.” Lee Ann Habben recounted the feelings among the small group that met up in Washington, D.C. en route to the Ambo Meda, Ethiopia, Medical Outreach. Ben Boone’s first thought was, “There are so few of us!” Others from Israel, Canada and elsewhere would join them in Ethiopia, but not many. In total, there were only 21 Outreach Partners on the Ambo Meda trip.

“I was the only provider on the international team,” said Lee Ann, a physician assistant. “There would be Ethiopian providers, but I was the only one coming from out of the country.” On other Outreaches Lee Ann had participated in, she was among seven or eight international providers.

“But Adonai said to Gideon, ‘Too many are the people who are with you, for Me to give the Midianites into their hand. Otherwise Israel would glorify itself against Me saying, ‘My own hand has delivered me.’”

JUDGES 7:2

The slight band of servants couldn’t help comparing themselves to Gideon’s army. Judges chapters 6–8 tell the story of God’s call upon Gideon to lead the battle against the Midianites. Gideon gathered 32,000 men to fight, but the Lord whittled it down to a mere 300 so that Israel – and everyone else – would know it was God who won the victory for them.

Jacob Stanton remembers that there in Washington, one of the participants said, “Like Gideon’s army, the success of this Outreach will depend on God – not us – because we are so small.”

And God worked – in a big way

God used the smallest team of partners, staff and local professionals that JVMI has ever taken on an Outreach to show Himself mighty. This limited troupe saw the most patients of any Medical Clinic conducted by Jewish Voice. Not only did they treat 17,787 patients in just five days, but they also cared for the most people in a single nine-hour day in all of Jewish Voice history – 5,063.

Last year, in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia, Jewish Voice conducted an Outreach that broke the records to date when



God worked in a big way to deliver medical care to record numbers of patients in Ambo Meda, Ethiopia – the most in Jewish Voice history!

we treated 15,919 patients. In Ambo Meda, with six fewer medical providers, three fewer nurses and 13 fewer team members than we had in Debre Birhan, the team treated 1,868 more medical and eye patients, along with 45 more dental patients, than our previous record-breaking service.

“By human logic,” Ben said, “this Outreach shouldn’t have gone anywhere near as well as it did.”

Lee Ann said that looking at the massive crowds can be daunting. But she and her interpreter, a recently degreed doctor who has yet to receive her license, made an efficient team. They just kept focused on each patient in front of them and had no idea they were seeing as many patients as they were.

Ben led a team responsible for moving patients through the pharmacy. He’d expected to work hard on the Outreach, and in fact, that suits his nature. Occasionally, his crew asked him to sit down, as is fitting in their culture for one in authority. But Ben likes to stay moving, and he just kept working, often skipping lunch. Later, his interpreter said this made a significant impression on their team members and is the reason they were so motivated to give their best and not slack.

It’s All God

The Ambo Meda Outreach teammates worked hard, but they are the first to acknowledge that what their ordinary work accomplished was miraculous. God took their small “Gideon’s army” and worked wonders to provide medical, dental and eye care to more people than anyone thought possible. God used a short-staffed group of faithful servants and showed Himself strong and mighty in Ambo Meda.

“God works in amazing, amazing ways!” Lee Ann said. “God showed us that what’s accomplished is through Him doing it, not us. We could take a big ol’ team over there, but even then, it’s all Him.” 🇺🇸

AMBO MEDA, ETHIOPIA MEDICAL OUTREACH	
17,787	PATIENTS TREATED
2,838	EYE GLASSES DISTRIBUTED
1,202	DENTAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED
181	EYE SURGERIES
173	MINOR SURGERIES
4	BABIES BORN
9,097	INDIVIDUAL LIFESTRAWS® DISTRIBUTED
178	FAMILY LIFESTRAW® UNITS GIVEN
7	COMMUNITY LIFESTRAW® UNITS GIVEN

DEBRE BIRHAN 2018	AMBO MEDA 2019
39 INTERNATIONAL TEAM, 51 TOTAL TEAM MEMBERS	21 INTERNATIONAL TEAM, 38 TOTAL TEAM MEMBERS
7 INTERNATIONAL PROVIDERS, 26 TOTAL PROVIDERS	1 INTERNATIONAL PROVIDER, 20 TOTAL PROVIDERS
8 INTERNATIONAL NURSES, 9 TOTAL NURSES	4 INTERNATIONAL NURSES, 6 TOTAL NURSES
2 INTERNATIONAL DENTAL TEAM MEMBERS, 9 TOTAL	0 INTERNATIONAL DENTAL TEAM MEMBERS, 7 TOTAL
WHAT AMBO MEDA OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHED WITH: 6 FEWER MEDICAL PROVIDERS 3 FEWER NURSES 13 FEWER OVERALL TEAM MEMBERS	1,868 MORE PATIENTS RECEIVED MEDICAL AND EYE CARE THAN THE LAST HIGHEST OUTREACH

Transforming Lives in Ambo Meda

JEWISH VOICE STAFF WRITER

Penny Missirlian was delighted to give a toy to a small patient who came to the Ambo Meda Medical Outreach in Ethiopia. It was a soft doll with a rattle. The beautiful little recipient looked like a doll herself, with her huge black eyes and impossibly long eyelashes. She tilted her head and bent it toward her gift. As her lips curled in a shy smile, she regarded her treasure. She was quietly captivated, but there was something unusual about her gaze. She stared intently, without blinking, and her scrutiny appeared somehow off-centered.

Liya was born with a congenital eye condition. At two years old, she was almost blind. Her bent-over and oddly turned head enabled her to see her new doll from the only small patch of her vision that remained.

Left untreated, Liya’s condition would eventually steal her sight completely. Her father heard about the Jewish Voice Medical Clinic occurring in Ambo Meda and brought her in hoping to save his daughter’s sight.

But Liya needed more advanced attention than was possible for us to give. At every Clinic, we encounter people whose conditions are far beyond the scope of care we can provide. That’s why we set aside specific funds to help those who need it most. We couldn’t fix Liya’s eyes, but we could send her to people who can.

For Liya, we were able to approve surgery in the capital city of Addis Ababa that would restore her sight. We also covered travel expenses for Liya

and her father to get her the surgery she needed. And for surprisingly little cost.

“Just a few hundred dollars is going to turn eventual blindness into a lifetime of sight,” said Ezra Benjamin, JVMI Vice President of Global Outreach. Kneeling beside Liya, he noted, “We’re treating thousands of people this week, but it’s really the story of *one* – like this little girl and her father, where a burden has been lifted because she’s getting the help and treatment she needs.”

“I want you to understand the difference your support makes,” Ezra added. “A few hundred dollars is the difference between blindness and a lifetime of opportunity, joy and blessing.”

For Liya, that small amount of money gave her the world.

A little girl saved from a life of blindness: This is just one account from among 17,787 “stories of one” that took place at the Ambo Meda, Ethiopia, Medical Outreach.

“I get so much joy from seeing these people receive treatment and blessing,” said Penny. “We can’t meet all their needs, but we can meet some. And at every JVMI Clinic, we treat more and more. That’s supernatural to me.” 🇺🇸



Penny Missirlian gives two-year-old Liya a soft doll.



RABBI JACK ZIMMERMAN

Hebrew School

WITH RABBI JACK

The focus of this edition of the *Jewish Voice Today* magazine is Outreaches. It's therefore appropriate that our Hebrew School teaching centers on a Hebrew word that has so much to do with these Medical Clinics and their impact around the world.

As most, if not all of you already know, our Outreaches provide free spiritual and medical care for those who otherwise would have no possibility of receiving it. These people truly fit the description of a Hebrew word that looks like this:

אֶבְיוֹן

This word is pronounced, "ev-YONE". It appears more than 60 times in the Tanach (Old Testament) and its basic meaning is "poor" or "needy."

You can find ev-YONE in verses like Deuteronomy 15:11, which in the Tree of Life Version reads, "For there will never cease to be poor / (ev-YONE) people in the land. Therefore I am commanding you, saying, 'You must surely open your hand to your brother – to your needy / (ev-YONE) and poor in your land.'"

Notice in that verse that the Lord tells us that helping the poor and needy is not optional; this is something that we – all of us – must do. But who exactly are the poor and needy? What are they lacking and exactly what are they in need of?

The question is not as cut and dry as it seems because one can be poor yet at the same time be rich! For example, in the Beatitudes, when Yeshua says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," our minds tend to automatically move in the direction of monetary wealth. We conclude that those who are financially poor can take heart, because one day they will have that proverbial mansion on the hilltop. But there, Yeshua is actually

referring to those who have come to the place where they realize that accumulating things can never bring about the happiness that only comes from putting one's faith in God alone. The place where you can't always depend upon the world to make you happy and provide for you, but you now know that only God can, and He always does.

Ev-YONE is a very different type of poor. If we look deeper into the definitions of this word, we find that Ev-YONE means, "oppressed" and "wretched." In other words, their state of impoverishment doesn't come from anything they've done wrong, but more accurately, from the wrong done to them by others. For example, we find the word "ev-YONE" in Amos 2:6, which says:

Thus says Adonai: "For three crimes of Israel even for four, I will not relent. For they sell the righteous for silver and the needy / (ev-YONE) for a pair of shoes."

The point there is ev-YONE refers specifically to those who suffer undeservedly. Again, they didn't do anything wrong. Rather, through any number of circumstances, they have been unjustly denied, forgotten, ignored or all three. When Yeshua said, "Whatever you do to the least of them, you've done it unto me," these were the type of people He was referring to.

And it is these people who we provide free spiritual, dental, eye and medical care for in places like Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and to Holocaust survivors in Israel. And we are able to do that thanks to the generous support of partners like you. 🇺🇸



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