

Why Do They Need Help?

The “Ethiopians” have a harder time adjusting to life in Israel than most immigrants. The Ethiopian culture is so different, especially for those who used to live in the villages of the Gondar region. Indoor bathrooms, bills, and appliances are unfamiliar to them. Some families come to Israel with little more than the clothes on their backs. The government gives them assistance when they leave the absorption centers, but this money is most often used to purchase a place to live.

The Ethiopians want very much to work and support their families, but are often unable to do so. Even the ones who come with a profession find it hard to obtain a job in their area of expertise. Many times they hold jobs at the bottom of the pay scale, such as security guard or cleaning jobs. Sometimes language is also a barrier to finding employment. Generally, the men find it harder to learn Hebrew than the women. Even though they are willing to improve their skills through training in order to obtain better paying jobs, they usually don't have the funds to afford these kinds of classes. For some, after paying their bills, there is no money left for food.

How Can You Help?

We invite you to come along side of us in helping these precious Ethiopian Jews. They are grateful for even the smallest amount of help they receive. It means so much to them that someone cares. They are amazed that it is Christians who are showing compassion and caring to them.



What Is Project “Hope for the Future” Doing to Help?

There are a number of areas in which we are involved to help needy Ethiopian families:

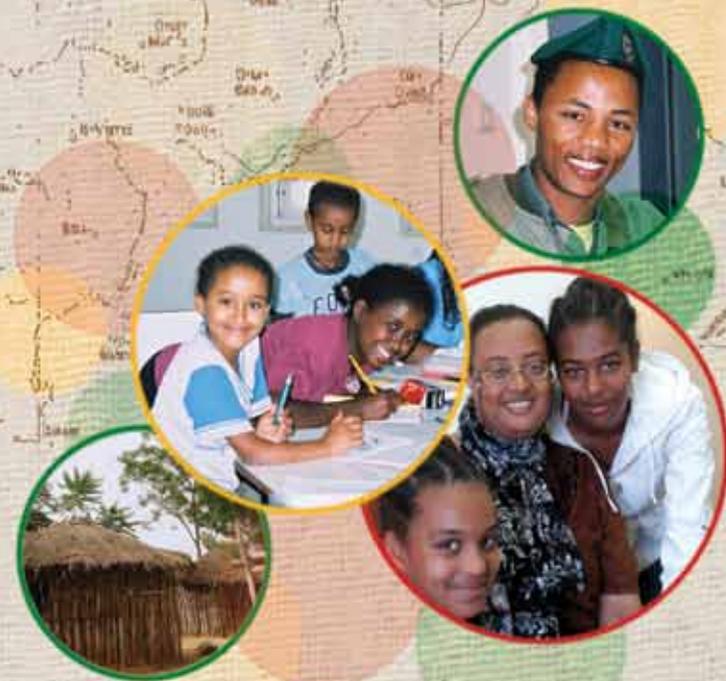
- **Family sponsorships**—families are sponsored monthly by individuals, families, prayer groups, and congregations to help them pay bills or buy food.
- **Food vouchers**—coupons to buy food
- **Education**—school fees and tuition for children and adults; after-school tutoring programs
- **Financial needs**—utility bills, tax bills
- **Home furnishings**—refrigerators, cooking stoves, washing machines, beds, and wardrobes
- **School supplies**—backpacks and school supplies for children
- **Renovations**—repairing and painting of homes



CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

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Hope for the FUTURE



MINISTERING TO ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRANTS

Christian Friends of Israel 

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Who Are the Ethiopian Jews?

The Jews in Ethiopia are known as Beta Israel. Beta Israel consists of Ethiopian Jews and Falashas, Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity but still follow Jewish customs. The Ethiopian Jews have a legend that King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba had a son and that is how Jews came to live in Ethiopia. Others have theorized that the Ethiopian Jews are a part of the Tribe of Dan who migrated to Egypt and traveled up the Nile River to its headwaters, but DNA tests have disproved this.



In 1973, the Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel declared the Beta Israel to be Jewish as did the Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi in 1975. Therefore, they were eligible for Israeli citizenship and full benefits under the 1950 Law of Return. In 1968, only 10 Beta Israel were living in Israel, by 1973 the number had increased to 170. At present there are over 110,000 Ethiopian Jews living in Israel.



How Did They Come to Israel?

The larger periods of aliyah occurred through Operation Moses in late 1984, which brought approximately 8,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel and Operation Solomon in 1991, which brought another 14,193. Due to famine and government persecution in Ethiopia, a number of the Beta Israel had walked to Sudan in the early 1980's. It was a month long journey filled with many dangers and hardships. Approximately 4,000 died along the way. Those who made it to Sudan lived in refugee camps under deplorable conditions. The situation came to the attention of several organizations, which then persuaded the Israeli government to plan Operation Moses and airlift these people to Israel.



Seven years later the political conditions in Ethiopia became unstable. Worrying about the fate of the Beta Israel, the Jewish Agency as well as other organizations decided to carry out Operation Solomon. In just 36 hours over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel. Thirty-four Hercules C-130 cargo aircraft and El Al jumbo jets, with seats removed to maximize capacity, flew non-stop until all of those authorized to leave were rescued. Today the Israeli government estimates that there are approximately 8,000 Ethiopian Jews remaining that are eligible to make aliyah and has agreed to bring them to Israel in the next few years.

How You Can Help!

- Please receive my gift to help expand the work of Project Hope for the Future.
- Please send me information on how I can pray for the Ethiopian immigrants.
- Please send me information on how I can sponsor an Ethiopian family.
- Please send me information on bringing a work team to repair Ethiopian homes.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
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(required)

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

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- Checks can be made payable to CFI designated **Hope for the Future** and returned with completed response form to: CFI, P.O. Box 1813, Jerusalem 91015, ISRAEL.
- Direct Deposits** are sent to: Christian Friends of Israel, Israel Discount Bank, 11 Ben Yehuda Street, Main Branch #060, Jerusalem, Israel, Account No. 772-658. Swift Code IDBLILIT, IBAN for EURO IL62011060000004772654. You will need to add an additional \$20 US, or equivalent in foreign currency, to each direct transfer to cover direct deposit bank fees or instruct your bank to charge you with all related fees both in Israel or abroad. On the bank transfer form include your full name, address, and in the memo area: CFI designated to **Hope for the Future**.