



ezra  
UK

# E-NEWS

Rescue-Return-Restore

January 2026



## TROUBLE IN IRAN

The protests that erupted on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and brought millions of Iranians onto the streets in an attempt to bring the Islamic Republic Government, which has been in power since 1979, down, have not yet reached their conclusion. Whilst it is hard to attain as to what exactly is going on in Iran, due to internet blackout, it is certain that Iran, with its multi-faith population, needs our prayers.

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## 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

It started in 1996 – officially – EZRA INTERNATIONAL! God's calling on an American business man called Mel Hoelzle, become reality, and now, 30 years on, the vision still thrives and affects places and people all around the world! To celebrate and to commemorate 30 years of service in bringing impoverished Jewish people from diaspora back home to Israel, we will highlight some of our shared history and milestones on each monthly edition of Ezra UK E-news this year!

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Ezra van damaged by shelling in Ukraine.



## UKRAINE IN TURMOIL

Midwinter has set in in Ukraine, with variable -10C to -20C in places. Over 60% of houses have incurred damage and electricity outtages are common place. For many, it is dark and cold in their homes and shelling still continues, with vehicles and roads being destroyed, as well as centers for health provision, such as hospitals and health centres. In midst of all of this, Ezra continues to aid the movement of Ukrainian Jews to Israel, often risking their own lives to get people via Moldova to safety. Recently, Ezra's van's windows were blown out due to a close impact of a rocket. No-one was hurt but it was only due to the ingenuity of our team that the van could even be used for further transport - otherwise, some families would have not made it to their flights in Moldova! Let's continue to pray for the end of this war!



## ISRAEL PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP DAY IN PERTH!

Last year Ezra UK, together with Prayer for Israel organisation, held an Israel Prayer and Fellowship Day in East Kilbride. The event was well attended and many of our friends and supporters expressed their desire to see a similar event take place yearly. So this year, we have confirmed a date and a place for our next Prayer and Fellowship Day: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Perth Hope Hub! Please take note of the date and more info will follow soon!



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Iran holds the oldest Jewish community in the diaspora. Jews have lived in Iran / Persia since 700 BC and at some point, it is estimated, 20% of Persian population was Jewish.

However, when Islam arrived in Iran and in particular, when Shiia Muslims were in power, Jewish people were persecuted and at times, mass converted. Many have fled to Israel or elsewhere for safety. Today less than 10'000 Jews remain in Iran.

## Prayer Focus Points

- Pray for the people of Iran that they will win the right to self-govern and for killings and persecutions to stop.
- Pray that a way would be opened for the Persian Jews to make Aliyah!
- Pray for Ukrainian Jews who still remain in the war-torn country to hear the call to get home and finally leave – how bad must it get before they are willing to leave? Pray for Jewish men of all ages to be able to leave the country.
- Thank God for calling Mel Hoelzle, over 30 years ago, to this very specific work of bringing God's people home to Israel. Pray this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Ezra International will be fruitful and yet more countries and Jewish communities would be reached worldwide, as the banner is being raised!



## How it ALL started!



Mel Hoelzle was a business man who had no time for God. However, when he was in his forties, God took hold of him and showed him a vision of God's people returning to Israel from all quarters of the world. Initially, Mel helped other organisations and individuals who were involved in bringing Jewish people home, but in 1996, he gathered his own team under the name EZRA INTERNATIONAL who specialised in helping Ukrainian Jews to find and fund their paperwork prior to repatriation to Israel. Ezra International now has teams on the ground in 14 countries and has helped Jewish people home from over 30 countries. Ezra UK supports some of these projects, with your ongoing help!