

Why God Will Make the Impossible Happen for You

God made a promise to Sarai and Abram—He had given them His word that He would make a great nation from them. There was only one challenge, though: Sarai was 65 and Abram was 75 years old when God made this promise to this childless couple. They had been barren for all of the years of their marriage, which was probably close to a half-century.

I can tell you from personal experience that generally when God makes a promise to one of His children that it is humanly impossible to make it happen! God's promises are only fulfilled by His power and by His intervention.

Nearly 25 more years passed by in the lives of Sarah and Abraham. During this time period, God had given them each a new name; He had changed "Sarai" to "Sarah" and "Abram" to "Abraham". God had placed the "Yahweh" sound in each of their names. He had breathed into their very lives His presence and His power.

However, this couple who had heard God speak to them, still had not seen His promise come to pass. Their arms were still empty and it seemed even more impossible now than it had seemed 25 years earlier.

"Now Abraham and Sarah were old and very advanced in age, and Sarah was well past childbearing" (Gen. 18:11).

Sarah was post-menopausal and, in the natural, there was no way that she would ever bear a child. It had not happened when she was young—how in the world could it ever happen now? Abraham was nearly 100 years old, and still there was no child for Abraham and Sarah. So the Lord said to Abraham, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will

have a son" (Gen. 18:14).

The question we all must answer as we wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled in our lives is this one, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?"

Is it too difficult for God to save your marriage?

Is it too difficult for God to bring your child home?

Is it too difficult for God to heal your body?

Is it too difficult for God to open doors of destiny for you?

Is it too difficult for God to set someone free from an addiction?

Is anything too difficult for the Lord?

I hope that you will answer with Sarah, with Abraham and with me, "Nothing is too difficult for the Lord!"

If you know the rest of Sarah's story, you know that she gave birth to a son, Isaac, when she was 90 years old. God never makes a promise that He does not fulfill! It was humanly impossible for Sarah to give birth, but God intervened with His miracle-working power.

What God did for Sarah—He can certainly do for you.

You are never too old for God to do a great work in your life. Allow Him to breathe His identity on you and then wait expectantly for Him to fulfill His promise.

Carol McLeod is an author and popular speaker at women's conferences and retreats, where she teaches the Word of God with great joy and enthusiasm. Carol encourages and empowers women with passionate and practical biblical messages mixed with her own special brand of hope and humor. She has written five books: *No More Ordinary*, *Holy Estrogen!*, *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart* and *Defiant Joy!* Her most recent book, *Refined:*

Finding Joy in the Midst of the Fire, will be released on Aug. 1. Her teaching DVD The Rooms of a Woman's Heart won the Telly Award, a prestigious industry award for excellence in religious programming.

For more of Carol McLeod's teaching, listen to the podcasts included here.

Real Talk Kim Prophecies: God Says, 'I Have a Divine Comeback for You'

Kimberly Jones-Pothier knows what it's like to be discouraged and to struggle to fight the enemy every day. And the woman known as "Real Talk Kim" knows many believers are faced with the same situation.

But Jones-Pothier also knows the God she serves is a powerful one, and He is working right now to help believers from all walks of life find deliverance from the devil's clutches. All they have to do is press in to Him.

"What I just keep hearing in the Spirit is that He knows your name, He knows your name," Jones-Pothier said in a prophetic prayer on a recent episode of 'Greenelines' on the Charisma Podcast Network. "I just see in the spirit right now that He is saying, 'I've got you. I have a divine step for you, a divine comeback for you.'

"So, right now in the name of Jesus, I thank you, God, for

Your presence. I thank you for the anointing that breaks every yoke. ... Right now, God is giving you the answers. He's dropping them in your spirit. It's ain't over until God says it's over.

"So Father, right now, we cancel every plot, every plan, every game the enemy has devised against us. Father, I speak to that mother who's been praying for that wayward child. ... I just heard in the spirit that every person that is listening right now, God says it's going to be OK. You don't have the answers. But God said, 'I got it. I know exactly where you are. ... I've got you and I've already given you the answers.' Tomorrow, you're going to wake up with Jesus, and it is going to be a brand-new day."

For more encouragement from Real Talk Kim, [listen to this podcast](#).

Spirit-Led Cell Phone Carrier Takes Big Leap of Faith

Cell phones have become a staple of everyday life in nearly every country around the world. And the business for your business has become extremely competitive, if not cutthroat.

But instead of pouring money monthly into a large corporate conglomerate, believers, through a company called Faith Wireless, now have the option of an affordable cell phone plan that allows them to not only enjoy the same quality of service provided by companies like Sprint, Verizon and AT&T, but also

to give back to the Christian community.

With Faith Wireless, 10% of the payment for your monthly cell phone bill goes directly to the Christian organization of your choice. Whether it's your local church or a mission organization, Faith Wireless helps to funnel funds into ministries that help spread the gospel around the world.

"This is a passion project for us, and we are trying to speak to a Christian audience," says Faith Wireless Vice President of Operations Christian Massi, who formerly worked for Verizon Wireless. "With my experience in dealing with the companies I have worked for, I have learned that it's very important to speak to people's hearts. I think there are people out there that want to give more [to the kingdom], but they are not blessed with the money to be able to do that.

"Most people these days are already paying for a cell phone. Through Faith Wireless, it allows Christians to give their money to Christian communities in a way that they may not have thought of previously."

Tim Theriot, a former pastor and now vice president of marketing for Faith Wireless, says Faith Wireless provides a kingdom purpose behind using its cell phones.

"It helps people find a way to give back," Theriot told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of "Charisma Connection" on the Charisma Podcast Network. "This is a business that we get to run on razor-thin margins on purpose. We want to see most of this money go back into these organizations and power these communities."

To learn more about Faith Wireless and its vital mission, [listen to this podcast](#).

The Powerful Gift You Can Give to Uplift Your Spouse Daily

“Dr. Weiss, why do I hurt so badly? It feels like all of me hurts inside and out.”

I have heard this question thousands of times in my 30-plus years of caring for [partners of betrayal trauma](#). These women come from every walk of life—every color, every age, every religion and on every continent.

A partner who is smart, attractive, intelligent, good-hearted and faithful to her husband is writhing in pain because she has been betrayed. She asks with a tear-stained face, “Why do I hurt so badly?”

When she has had enough time to feel this, she looks at me again with a look of “OK I’m back. Talk to me.” I tell her, “The reason you hurt so much is because you love so much.” She nods her head in acknowledgement. That is exactly why she hurts so badly.

Let me share with you how I explain the trauma of betrayal to her in a very practical way.

Mary Jo is an executive with an MBA. She makes over six figures, is successful, athletic, a faithful wife and mother of two daughters. Her husband is also a professional and travels. Unbeknownst to Mary Jo, her husband was addicted to porn his entire life. Over the last five years when her husband traveled, his behavior shifted to prostitutes and one-night stands. Mary Jo was informed of all of this when her

husband was told he would lose his job if he didn't get "significant help." The couple came to my office to do an Intensive. Her husband completed a polygraph clarifying the extent of his behavior.

Even though Mary Jo already knew 90% of what was on the polygraph, she was still in pain from all the betrayal from her husband of 14 years. She couldn't understand why she was hurting so badly.

I said, "Mary Jo, I want you to stand up. I want you to lean all of your body weight on this chair." She did. "Now in this position you're all in in trusting. You have no defense, no balance, no safety. This is the position you were in when your husband sucker-punched you with betrayal. You had no defense against this hit at all. That's why you hurt all over. The trauma cracks from his betrayal have gone through all aspects of your being (spiritually, emotionally, cognitively and sexually) but also to other areas of your life. You're feeling multiple fractures and the multi-dimensional impact of betrayal trauma.

I encourage you to find a stable sofa or chair, and lean all in. Let your body and soul totally trust the chair. This is who you are. You are all in; all trusting, all giving and a faithful, amazing woman.

You have fully trusted in the past and are now experiencing trauma from the betrayal. The reason your pain is so great is because you were vulnerable and all in.

I want to highlight many ways you probably trusted your husband before the betrayal. The [partner betrayal trauma](#) story doesn't start when a woman finds out about the betrayal. It starts when her heart is all in the relationship with the man who betrayed her.

There were many days you gave your heart, trust and sexuality to this man you loved. You dated and bought wholeheartedly the

image of him that he was creating for you.

Then came the day you put on your white dress and walked down the aisle to the classic tune of "Here Comes the Bride." You declared before God, family, and friends that you were all in with this man. You heard him declare some version that he would "forsake all others and love, honor and cherish you."

You trusted him. You trusted him as you moved into apartments and houses, bought furniture, dreamed together and as you supported him in his career. You trusted him enough to have children together, including all of the joys and responsibilities that come with them.

When you go back through the movie of your life, do you see that you were all in with this man? You trusted, and this trusting is where the story begins.

Your trust has been impacted significantly due to his betrayal. His betrayal is huge because the marriage relationship is so intertwined. The Bible says when we get married "The two will become one flesh" (Gen. 2). This is probably the best word picture ever written about marriage.

You become one unit. This marriage combines and utilizes your various strengths and weaknesses. You extended your trust to him in the most significant manner humanly possible.

This is the entire argument for partner betrayal trauma. The sacred, multi-dimensional, interdependent relationship of marriage is a totally different, unique and much more intimate relationship than any other relationship possible.

The marriage relationship has trust as one of its key ingredients to be successful. I know I can totally trust my wife, Lisa, in every area of our lives, and she knows she can trust me. This trust helps us stay intimate as friends and lovers, but practically, it also allows us to function seamlessly on so many personal and professional areas of our

lives.

Trust is a very powerful gift you give someone. Total trust (spirit, soul, body, sexual and financial) is the kind of trust you give to the one man you are all in with. You trusted him in so many areas of your life.

Your trust was huge before betrayal and became part of your story due to no fault of your own. He chose to betray you, whether with porn or sex with others (known or unknown to you), or through intimacy anorexia and withholding himself from you. Regardless if you're a partner because of sex addiction, infidelity or intimacy anorexia, you are a partner who has experienced betrayal and the trauma that comes with that betrayal.

As a partner, you will need to work through the betrayal, and embark on the journey of partner recovery, and begin to become the amazing person you were meant to be. I have seen thousands of women heal and become stronger as a result of this courageous journey.

Doug Weiss, Ph.D., is a nationally known author, speaker and licensed psychologist. He is the executive director of [Heart to Heart Counseling Center](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the author of several books including, *Clean* and [Partner Betrayal Trauma](#). You may contact Dr. Weiss via his website, drdougweiss.com or on his [Facebook](#), by phone at 719-278-3708 or through email at heart2heart@xc.org.

Chuck Pierce Prophecies: 'Do Not Submit to the Bad Things in Your Bloodline'

This is a time when we must aggressively press through the narrow place so we break through and go the distance! Sunday's service was an amazing example of the generations aligning. Not only did we have an on-fire group of youth returning from camp, but my daughter (Rebekah Faubion) and I were able to minister together on how to press out to press in to our promises.

Pressing Through

There comes a moment when you capture the revelation that shifts you into your future. Whereas slavery confines you to a narrow place and constricts you physically, emotionally and spiritually, there comes a time to press into your new level of fullness. And, as Rebekah said, that time is *now!* We don't want to miss the signs the Lord is providing to break us out of old cycles and illuminate the revelation that will shift us into our future.

Don't rehearse your failures and mistakes. This is your time to occupy and access the vision the Lord has placed within you. This journey is about how you allow God to break through in you, and not just coming through one narrow place. If you are aligned with God and respond to His voice with thanksgiving, He will help you go through narrow place after narrow place after narrow place. Commit to go the distance—the best is yet ahead!

Your Time to Come Out in the Sun

Here is a key prophecy that will help encourage you to keep advancing through this month of Av:

The Lord says, "I see you in your enclosed place. I see you as you sit and attempt to heal that which needs to be healed. But this is not a time of licking and mending your wounds over and over; this is a time for you to come out into the sun. The sun will heal your wounds and burn out what is within you. Don't back up and hide again! Come out, and watch Me begin to bring you into wholeness.

"You have forgotten where you have come from. Some of you have settled yourself into where you are now but forgotten that you are from a royal priesthood. Do not confine yourself to where you are nor the bloodline that you're in, for there is a higher stream of blood that I have given to you. The same blood that ran down Calvary's cross is your blood.

"Do not submit to the bad things in your bloodline, for there is a higher blood. Forget not where you come from, for you are My sheep and I still am the Good Shepherd. Watch Me shepherd you as we go into this new era; I will reveal Myself as the Good Shepherd.

"Keep your eyes on Me, because I am the one who is leading you. You are afraid to come out into the sun because in the light you are exposed. You fear what others may see or say when you step into the light. However, they do not see what I see. I am not about what is exposed in the sun, but the shining that's coming from inside of you! What I have placed inside of you is going to radiate beyond what is seen and what is exposed, and is what will lead you into the new.

"Like the three Hebrews in Babylon's raging fire, this is a time when you will feel the intensity of the heat. However, this will not consume you but prepare you to hold on to My promises. The fire I have set within you will overcome the fire in the earth realm.

"My consuming fire is coming to those things the enemy set you in, to overtake you. My spotlight is on you. You are to

radiate and cause the light I put on you to cause the darkness around you to separate and dispel. My light is on you, and you cause the darkness around you to separate and dispel.” (Prophetic words spoken by: Acijam Otxoa, Chuck D. Pierce, Keevy Phillips, Kendrick Lewis and Robyn Vincent.)

Charles D. “Chuck” Pierce serves as president of *Global Spheres, Inc. (GSI)* in Corinth, Texas. This is an apostolic, prophetic ministry that is being used to gather and mobilize the worshipping Triumphant Reserve throughout the world. Chuck also serves as President of *Glory of Zion International Ministries*, a ministry that aligns Jew and Gentile. He is known for his accurate prophetic gifting which helps direct nations, cities, churches and individuals in understanding the times and seasons in which we live. Chuck and his wife, Pam, have six children and seven grandchildren. He has authored over 20 books, including the bestsellers *Interpreting the Times*, *Redeeming the Time*, and [Time to Defeat the Devil](#).

How the Holy Spirit Can Instantly Repair Your Broken Relationship With Your Child

With the family unit in America continually deteriorating, author and pastor Max Lucado wants you to know that it's not too late.

If you think you've blown it with your children because of past parenting mistakes, the Holy Spirit can fix the

relationship, and quickly.

“Let’s remember that God can do in a moment what we think might take decades,” Lucado told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of “Greenelines” on the Charisma Podcast Network. “We sometimes assume that if we were not involved in our children’s lives when they were young that we will never have a chance to undo that. But the Holy Spirit can do that.

“The Holy Spirit is powerful. Jesus described the Holy Spirit like a wind. The wind can come in a gentle form, or it can come in a hurricane form and bring about change. So, let’s not assume that we’ve missed it. ... Let your child know that you are always going to be there for them and in case they wonder, that you’re still going to love them no matter what happens.

“We learn from our mistakes, and God can change things. Look at Joseph. He was in prison one night and then prime minister the next day in Egypt, so He can bring about those kinds of changes. Let’s keep praying, keep believing, keep trusting in the Holy Spirit to work and know in the right time, in the right way, good things are going to happen.”

For more about how to repair your broken relationship with your child, [listen to this podcast](#).

What to Do When You and Your

Son Have Nothing in Common

One of my favorite shows on television was *Parenthood*. Honestly, I was probably too emotionally invested in the show. I would talk to fellow fans about the characters like they were real people. It followed a family called the Bravermans.

The show centers on the four grown-up siblings trying to figure out the ups and downs of parenthood. The oldest sibling, named Adam, is married with three kids. In the first few episodes, he and his wife, Kristina, come to find out that their middle child, Max, has Aspergers, a syndrome that makes social interactions and communication difficult.

Adam loves his son and strives to be a great father. However, throughout the series, you see his struggle as he attempts to connect with a son who is different from him in every way. His interests are different, the way he looks at the world is different, his humor is different, and on and on. Those kinds of barriers can be frustrating. You try and try, but just can't break through.

Are you and your son polar opposites? Perhaps you have similarities, but you just have trouble connecting. If that is you, or you and your son actually have nothing in common, the following will help you connect more.

Change Your Expectations

"You need to love the son you have, not the one you hoped he would be."

When you found out you were having a son, I'm sure you got a picture in your mind of what it was going to look like. You created expectations and couldn't wait to live them out. Those expectations need to be thrown out. It is a different picture and a different life. Max Dupree, the author of [*Leadership is an Art*](#), says, "the first responsibility of a leader is to

define reality.” The first step in building a good relationship with your son is embracing the reality of who he is. You need to love the son you have, not the one you hoped he would be.

Meet Him on His Turf

Remember the movie *Over the Top* with Sylvester Stallone? It was about a father-son relationship, and the title song for the movie was called “Meet Me Halfway.” Wrong mentality. We need to meet our sons on their ground. I heard an expert on Asbergers recently say that the kids who do the best are the ones who have parents who step into their world. I believe that’s true of all kids, Asbergers or not. Don’t pressure him to change. Take an interest in the things he loves, whether you hate those things or not. Play with him.

Learn His Language

You don’t have to talk like him, but you have to work on understanding him. This is hard. It takes patience, discernment and the ability to ask a lot of questions. Assume good intent and read between the lines. Kids, preteens, and teenagers have a difficult time deciphering their feelings and the reality of the world around them. That’s where you come in. Ask questions like, “So when you say that you ‘hate school’ and that it is ‘boring,’ do you really mean that you have a class you are struggling in?”

“Yes.”

“I know what that feels like. Can I help?” Learn what he means behind what he says.

Failure Is Not an Option

Gene Kranz, the retired flight director for NASA, wrote about the Apollo 13 crew whose ship had experienced a catastrophic failure that they were out of his physical reach but they were

never past the limits of human imagination and inventiveness to be rescued. When it comes to our kids, we are faster, stronger and smarter. It's not their job to make the connection, it's ours.

We need to make the connection. Use every gift and ability at your disposal. Ask your wife, if you are married, or brainstorm with friends to find ways to connect with your son. [Remember the motto: Failure is not an option.](#) He needs you. Don't let anything stop you, especially frustration and expectations.

Huddle up with your kids and ask, "if there was one thing you would change about your relationship, what would it be?"

B.J. Foster is a married father of two. As director of content creation, he utilizes his experience in the corporate world, politics, nonprofits and over 15 years of working with adolescents.

For the original article, visit allprodad.com.

Next Time You Want to Sin, Remember This Sobering Thought

Just for a moment, imagine that you were our heavenly Father and had spoken a perfect world into existence. From nothing, you created everything and everything was perfect in every way.

You then formed man from the clay and breathed the breath of life into his lungs and he lived. From his side, you formed woman and they lived within this perfect place called *Gan Eden*, the Garden of Eden. There was no sickness, no death, no pain in childbearing and no sin.

Then suddenly, the man and the woman, Adam and Eve, did something they had never done before: They sinned.

Now, imagine if you can how you would have felt at that very moment, the first moment that Adam and Eve—your creation—rebelled for the very first time. Imagine the heartbreak you would experience. Think about it: at that moment when Adam and Eve experienced sin for the first time, G-D experienced the heartbreak of one of His children sinning for the first time.

It is possible that you have been a believer in Yeshua (Jesus) for many years and have never considered the idea that when Adam and Eve experienced the sin of rebellion and the repercussions of that sin for the first time, G-D experienced the repercussions of their sin for the first time also. If you are a parent, you can somewhat understand what this moment must have felt like for our Father when His children sinned for the very first time.

I know I can remember back to that moment of heartache and sadness when each of my sons first chose to defy my words for the very first time. Yes, I was angry. But I was more than just angry. I was also broken, I was saddened and I was hurt.

As you consider these thoughts while reading this today, think a little further. Think for a moment that, according to Scriptures such as:

- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, TLV).
- “Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new

creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

- "Therefore we were buried together with Him through immersion into death—in order that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become joined together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also will be joined together in His resurrection—knowing our old man was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be done away with, so we no longer serve sin. For he who has died is set free from sin" (Rom. 6:4-7).
- "Now why are you waiting? Get up and be immersed, and wash away your sins, calling on His Name" (Acts. 22:16).

There are many other verses that cover this. When you and I accept Yeshua as our Messiah and are born again by accepting His atonement in our lives, we become new and we stand before our G-D as new creations, having had our sins forgiven and washed away and all unrighteousness removed.

At that moment, spiritually, you and I stand before G-D in the same state that Adam and Eve stood before Him in the Garden before the fall of sin. If this is true (and according to Scripture, it is), then we need to consider that after our repentance, which brought forgiveness, the very next time we chose to sin, that moment was the same as when Adam and Eve first chose to sin.

G-D would have looked at you and I with the same painful expression and broken heart that He looked upon Adam and Eve. How our Father must feel when we choose sin over Him. The good news is that 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness," is still true and we can begin again and again.

Maybe the next time when the choice to sin confronts us, the

thought of our sin breaking our Father's heart will break our hearts, so that we choose not to break our Father's heart.

Eric Tokajer is author of *With Me in Paradise*, *Transient Singularity*, *OY! How Did I Get Here?: Thirty-One Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me Before Entering Ministry*, *#ManWisdom: With Eric Tokajer, Jesus Is to Christianity as Pasta Is to Italians*, and *Galatians in Context*.

Prophecy: 'I Hear Shackles, Chains Breaking Off Your Life Right Now'

On a recent episode of "Greenelines" on the Charisma Podcast Network, prophetic minister Kathy DeGraw told Dr. Steve Greene that the Lord revealed to her that He is preparing to free many believers from the bondages and strongholds that enslave them today.

In her prophetic word, DeGraw says God told her:

"Right now what I'm feeling for this audience is the fire of God is about to come upon you in a new and a profound way. He says, 'I'm getting ready to burn up the impurities in your life—those soul wounds, those hardships and those hard times.' In the spiritual realm, I just hear shackles and chains just breaking off of your life right now. I hear just a great sledgehammer taking those shackles, like those slave manacles, and just breaking them off.

"And what I see is the Lord putting a helmet of salvation on a

lot of people. And when you hear that word 'salvation,' salvation actually means deliverance, a helmet of deliverance. It's a helmet of freedom. And what God is saying is that it's time for the mind-binding spirits, it's time for the luring in spirits, it is time for the negativity that has plagued your mind, that has bound you and drawn you into the wrong way of thinking, to be loosed from your mind. And God says to you today that there is a renewal coming, there's a purification process coming. And He says, 'I am getting ready to do a new and an abundant work in your life.'

"I just see some people just physically speaking out of their mouths, and you're speaking out life; you're speaking out words to people; you're speaking out Scripture to people. And what I see ... I see with fire starters, you've taken that fire that the Lord has given you, and you're a fire starter. I'm just seeing a perfect sense of words just coming out of your mouth. And it is changing people's situations. It is changing their circumstances. Because out of what you speak, you are empowering others. Out of what you speak, you are freeing others.

"Out of what you speak, you are enabling them to be able to go out and do a marvelous work. But also, what I hear is ... out of what you speak is setting the captives free. And so, God says to release freely, release abundantly. And He says to you today that you can hear Him, you just don't always realize how clearly you hear Him. So, don't doubt the voice of the Lord. It does come into you. And it can speak through you."

Prayer: Father God, I just ask that you seal that word into people, that you bring it forth, that you just dispatch angels into activation. That the devil cannot kill, steal or destroy one word of that. We call it forth for the listeners today, and we fill it in with the blood of the Lamb and the precious name of Jesus.

To learn more about Kathy's prophetic ministry, [listen to this](#)

[podcast](#).

Ministries Help Fulfill Prophecy, Jews Make the Long Pilgrimage Home

Yael Eckstein, president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), noticed something unusual at the Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's main international hub. As passengers disembarked from their flight to Ukraine, she could not help but stare at one man. Weeping as he walked off the plane, the man bent down to kiss the ground.

That in itself would not be unusual for a Jewish person who has made *aliyah*: immigration to the biblical homeland of Israel. IFCJ and other organizations frequently facilitate such flights. But the circumstances of this man, Oleksandr Moroz, a 40-year old engineer from Ukraine, were different.

"I just had to walk up and ask him what his story was," Eckstein says. "He told me that it had been a very emotional journey for him for many, many years. He told me he was forced to change his name 15 years ago because of the persecution he underwent in eastern Ukraine. He lived in hiding for those 15 years. He told me, 'Finally, I can live as a Jewish person again and not be worried about my life being taken.' Many of the people we help can relate to that."

IFCJ is one of many organizations helping Jews make aliyah in accordance with Isaiah 11:11-12, which reads: "In that day the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, who shall be left, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He shall set up a banner for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

In fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, Jewish people are immigrating back to Israel in droves. When Israel officially became a state in 1948, its population stood at a little more than 600,000. At present, there are more than 6.5 million Jews living in a country of nearly 9 million people.

But much more work remains before Israel sees complete prophetic fulfillment. Jewish Voice Ministries says the mass return of the Jews to their rightful homeland is "yet another important sign that the Messiah's return is approaching."

In response, many organizations not only provide Jews from around the world with flights to Israel, but they also help them assimilate into society once they arrive in-country. Donations to these agencies enable them to help immigrants in financial need to make the journey. And no matter which organization is responsible—IFCJ, Ezra International, Operation Exodus USA or the Jewish Fund—one irrefutable truth has become evident: Helping Jews make *aliyah* transforms lives.

Changed Lives

With 90 staff members and more than 500 volunteers, Ezra International has helped more than 70,000 Jews with this process over the past 2½ decades. At the time of publication, the organization is actively working with 42,000 more Jews who live in 18 countries to help them reach the Holy Land.

Before they make aliyah through any organization, individuals

must provide documents proving their Jewish descent. Volunteers and sometimes staff members on the ground in each country, like those from Ezra International, often help individuals find the proper documentation. They also assist with transportation, as the trips to and from the documentation agencies can sometimes prove challenging for individuals who live in remote areas.

Once the trip to Israel takes place, the work has only begun. Aliyah-focused organizations work tirelessly with the Israel-based Jewish Agency for Israel to help individuals and families integrate into Israeli society. They help these new immigrants obtain employment, find suitable housing and learn to speak Hebrew.

Ezra International founder and President Mel Hoelzle has witnessed plenty of aliyah stories, both heart-warming and gut-wrenching. In his efforts through Ezra International since the early 1990s, Hoelzle has seen firsthand God's mercy, healing and power.

While on assignment years ago in Ukraine to help a family make aliyah, Hoelzle encountered a 6-year-old girl who couldn't walk and whose family couldn't afford the medical care she needed. The girl wore braces but still needed support to get around, and Hoelzle says her doctors in Ukraine had given up hope that the child would ever walk again.

Once Ezra International helped the family make aliyah, it also directed them to medical facilities and doctors who could properly diagnose the problem with the little girl's legs and lay out a plan for treatment. After surgeries, the healing process began.

Hoelzle is proud to report that she now walks normally and even participates in a gymnastics program.

"When I was in the Ukraine with them, I carried that little girl to a van that helped them get to the airport to make

aliyah,” Hoelzle says. “And then, when I was in Israel sometime later, I met with the family again, and this little girl ran and jumped into my arms. Praise God! It was a tremendous blessing to me just to be part of something like that and to know that what we’re doing helped make that happen.”

Safe Harbor

For many, life in Israel brings much-needed peace of mind. With anti-Semitism accelerating throughout the globe, many Jews still living in the former Soviet Union—in places such as Ukraine and Azerbaijan—fear for their lives daily and endure heavy persecution.

Hoelzle says anti-Semitism and persecution of Jews has also amped up in countries such as Venezuela, France and Germany. More than 300,000 Russian Jews migrated to Germany over the years, but the heat of persecution in that country is now rising to epic proportions, Hoelzle says. His organization and others are working feverishly to get them out of these hostile situations, leery they may escalate to something similar to 1930s Germany before World War II.

Take Roman from eastern Ukraine. A young government lawyer, Roman—considered a pro-Ukrainian official—was kidnapped by rebels on his way to work in May 2014 after riots broke out throughout the country. He and his manager at work were held with sacks over their heads for two days in a secret location. During that time, rebels tried to extract information from them—information they did not have.

“It’s lucky for me they didn’t know I was Jewish,” Roman told the IFCJ. “Otherwise, I’d be dead.”

The two were eventually released, and Roman and his wife, Alexandra, decided they needed to leave their home before something more tragic befell them. They agreed it was time to make aliyah and contacted the IFCJ.

After the vetting process, the IFCJ put the young couple on a Fellowship Freedom Flight, and the two now live happily in Kibbutz Ein HaShofet in the Menashe Heights region, approximately 30 miles from Haifa.

The couple are only two of more than 750,000 Jews the IFCJ has assisted in making aliyah since 1985, when Eckstein's father, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founded the organization. The IFCJ works in 37 non-Western countries and has 46 paid staff and more than 3,000 volunteers to help facilitate the process. Eckstein says it relies heavily on donations to help "make biblical prophecy come to fruition."

That's important, because although anti-Semitism plays a significant part in the aliyah decision for many Jews, it's not the only factor. Some are motivated by the idea of fulfilling a role in the end times.

Debra Minotti, president of Operation Exodus USA, shares the unusual testimony of a U.S.-based Jew named Ariel. Ariel says it had always been his family of five's plan to migrate to Israel based on what the Bible says.

"We're making aliyah based on many reasons," Ariel says. "But if I had to state just one, I'd say that my wife and I have a strong feeling that it's just time. I can't say with certainty why it's time, but I suppose it's a feeling based upon a combination of Scripture and a keen observation of world events. There is so much evidence from Scripture that is chillingly relevant to what is happening today, such that anyone who is truthful with himself simply cannot ignore it. It feels as if something big is going to happen, and it only makes sense if one takes the time to learn about the forces at work today that are actively seeking to destroy Christianity and America."

Considering the source, Minotti says such a testimony came as a shock to her.

“This is coming from a Jewish person,” Minotti says. “It’s unbelievable. Ariel goes on to say that he and his family are religious Jews, but they are not strictly observant. He says he actually feels more comfortable ideologically with believing Christians than he is with the people he grew up with. What he said is so profound. He could easily say, ‘Yes, I want to go to Israel because it’s my homeland.’ Many others do. But more and more, Jews are beginning to open their hearts to those who agree with them that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is calling them back. Many of them are raised with Zionist beliefs. But also, many of them are saying, ‘*Hashem* [a Hebrew term for God] is calling me back to Israel.’”

Promised Land

For others who dream of making aliyah, Israel represents a land of prosperity and potential—as it first did to the Israelites freed from Egypt millennia ago. In recent years, the opportunity to live in such a financially and technologically burgeoning country has become more and more attractive.

President Sol Lizerbram says the Jewish National Fund has been helping people make aliyah since Theodore Herzl created it in 1901. Along with its affiliate, Nefesh B’Nefesh, the Jewish National Fund has raised money and purchased land in Israel over the past century-plus.

But instead of directing them toward settling in the population hubs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the organization is concentrating on moving them into the northern and southern regions of Israel—in particular, the Negev and Galilee regions, which offer new, vibrant communities with meaningful work and available, affordable housing.

“We give them the tools to be successful,” Lizerbram says. “We make sure that there’s good education for the children, employment, housing, schools, recreation and even a social

life to enjoy. We make sure that everything is in place for them so that, when they get there, it's an organized, exciting environment.

"Our focus is on Israel's north and south because 90 percent of Israel's population is in the Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem corridor. Years ago, Ben Gurion said the future is in Negev, and he was correct. With technology, farmers have figured out how to grow crops in the sand with no dirt. Many high-tech companies like Dell and Intel are moving there. So that creates reasons to move there, and it's less expensive than the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem corridor. We're helping to build new communities and enhance ones that are already there. Our focus is to help build and create an environment for people who want to make aliyah."

Lizerbram says many are moving to Israel "because it's a fabulous life."

"We like to say that in 1901, Jewish National Fund's focus was on buying land and planting trees to build the nation," Lizerbram says. "Today, Jewish National Fund is planting people in Israel. And we do that with our affiliate, Nefesh B'Nefesh. Israel has become a very exciting place. It's called a startup nation. There's so much innovation in pharmaceuticals, technology, cyber-security and other areas. For young married couples or unmarried people, it's very exciting to move there. When you create these new communities, it's not just building a house. It's jobs, fire and police stations, schools, hospitals and libraries. You have to build the entire ecosystem, and that's what we're doing."

For some young American Jews, who have lived their entire lives in the U.S., just one trip to Israel convinces them to make aliyah.

"Ever since I can remember, it has been my dream to live in the Holy Land," says Naomi, who has a husband and three

children. “I come from a Zionistic family with parents and grandparents who fostered a love of Israel. I made my first trip when I was in high school and from that moment, when I prayed at The Western Wall, I knew that someday I would return to live there. We want to be together in a place where we can live with other Jews, send our children to religious school and worship in the land that God gave to our people. While it is a scary thing to pick up and move from the only home we’ve ever known, we believe strongly that we belong in our real home, the land of Israel.”

So does Moroz, who wept and kissed the ground when he first landed in Israel. He says making aliyah not only helped him, his wife and his 74-year-old mother escape persecution in eastern Ukraine but has afforded the couple an opportunity to fulfill another dream. Though they always wanted to start a family, fertility problems and fear of persecution in an unstable situation proved overwhelming hurdles. But the promised land is a place where one biblical couple—also racked by infertility—had children and grew into a mighty nation. Moroz looks forward to a fresh, life-changing start of his own in Israel.

“We don’t have any children and actually hope that the reproductive medicine in Israel will eventually help us,” Moroz says. “Our chances there are much, much better. We look forward to trying.”

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