



from the desk of
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"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" I John 3:17

Dear Hear O Israel Partners:

For seven long years, Abi waited in the squalor of a Gondar, Ethiopia, compound, fighting to survive, despite rampant disease and malnutrition that afflicted him and thousands of other Ethiopian Jews in his city. Before him dangled the promissory "carrot" of hope. He was surely on a list of people who soon would be shipped to safety in Israel.

Then one day, Abi's time ran out. He died. One week later, a letter arrived announcing that Abi was allowed to come to Israel. He had missed his opportunity for aliyah by just seven days.

Today, in the city of Gondar, thousands more Abis sit in similar devastating circumstances, hanging on to the same hope of deliverance. Around them, tuberculosis rages, along with other filth-birther illnesses such as cholera, diphtheria and yellow fever. Daily, more and more of them succumb to these diseases or to malnutrition, still clinging fiercely to a hope that is never realized, often because the list they were reportedly on never existed in the first place.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia to meet with a select group of Messianic Jewish ministry leaders, including David Rudolph, director of Gateways Beyond, a relief organization based in Cyprus, to explore some ways to labor collectively to funnel medical assistance, financial help, food and clothing to these most needy Jewish people. Many Ethiopian Jews have suffered greatly, not only from the physical challenges facing them but also personal attacks, including beatings by members of the state-run church and destruction by fire of their homes. Though they have lived in Ethiopia for over 3000 years, Ethiopian Jews are considered foreigners and aliens in the land and thus are treated as outcasts, and subject to many types of maltreatment.

