

Nachamu Nachamu Ami Yomar Eloheichem! (Isaiah 40:1)

Comfort, Comfort my People says your God In AUSTRALIA!



LAWRENCE HIRSCHExecutive Director of
Celebrate Messiah

In the middle of the first week of the war in Israel, Celebrate
Messiah has stepped out in faith and purchased a home in the beautiful Apollo Bay, on the Great Ocean Road in Victoria.
We believe that God urged us to buy this home so we can host Israeli Backpackers and give them a safe and comfy place (a Zula in Hebrew) to come and stay for a few days as they travel through Australia. We have named this home, ZulaRoo – a comfy place in Australia.

As we all come to grips with this tragic and devastating war in Israel, we now know more than ever, why God was urging us to step out in faith and purchase a ZulaRoo.

As young Israelis travel once again, after the horrors and trauma that they have been through in Israel, we want to be able to offer them a welcoming, loving, caring and healing place to stay in one of Australia's most beautiful coastlines. Australia will become a sought after destination as travel to other countries will become more unsafe for young Israeli backpackers.

This is our opportunity to love and care for young Israelis, in Yeshua's name. The hosting of Israeli backpackers has been described as the "sleeping giant" of ministry to the Jewish people. You can read more about this in the following pages.

God is calling us to comfort His people Israel HERE IN AUSTRALIA. And in doing so, share the love of Yeshua.

Please support this step of faith and obedience, and partner with us in Project ZulaRoo – comforting and caring for God's people (Isa 40:1).

Our goal is to raise \$1.4 million to fully acquire this property. Step out in faith with us!

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40, ESV)

Yours for the Kingdom and the salvation of Israel,

Lawrence Hirsch

Executive Director, Celebrate Messiah Australia

GOD IN ACTION: The ZulaRoo story so far...

IN THE SPACE OF ONLY NINE MONTHS, GOD ORCHESTRATED A SERIES OF AMAZING EVENTS, SPURRING US TO ESTABLISH OUR FIRST DEDICATED GUEST HOUSE FOR ISRAELI TRAVELLERS.

Approximately 40,000 Israelis travel each year after completing their military service, with a significant number venturing to Australia and New Zealand.

For over 20 years, Lawrence and Louise Hirsch have hosted many Israeli backpackers in their home, albeit one or two at a time. Knowing how effective their own hosting experience has been with opportunities to share their love of Yeshua with Israelis, their vision was to encourage others to host Israeli travellers.

This vision became a reality in February 2023 when Celebrate Messiah launched **Host Israelis**. Since then, individuals, couples and families have registered through our hostisraelis.com.au, website and opened their homes to host Israeli travellers, free of charge.

As you can see from the testimonies of both hosts and travellers on pages 4 and 5, the experience is a blessing for all involved. Israeli travellers will often ask, "Why are you hosting us for free?" and "Why only to Israelis?". This provides fruitful opportunities for the hosts to have interesting conversations regarding their love for the Jewish people due to their faith in Yeshua.

However, while the number of people hosting is growing, the Hirsch's had a vision to have a dedicated guesthouse in Australia, that could accommodate more Israelis at one time than any one family could take in.

The inspiration for this came from our partner ministry, Celebrate Messiah New Zealand, who have been successfully reaching out to young Israelis by hosting them in their two lodges on the South Island. The first lodge, aptly named "Zula" – Israeli slang for a "comfy place," has been highly effective as they openly share Yeshua as the reason to provide Israelis with a few nights' free accommodation.

For many years, it was our firm belief that God was calling us to do the same



ZulaRoo



here in Australia, to provide a safe and peaceful haven for Israelis as they explore our land. We referred to this vision as *ZulaRoo*. A 'comfy place' in Australia.

Then, starting in April 2023, the Lord orchestrated a series of amazing events to make this a swift reality. Through various individuals, Celebrate Messiah received:

- a new lounge suite,
- a refrigerator and a washing machine,
- \$357,000 specifically given as a house deposit for this vision, and
- a caravan!

We knew God was moving, however, there was one very important missing component: Who would live-in and run the ZulaRoo?

Amazingly, within weeks, the Hirschs received an email from an Australian missionary family living in Israel. The email read:

"Our time in Israel looks like it's coming to an end...as we pray about what the Lord wants us to do next, we have been thinking about hostels and backpacking. We are aware there is the Zula lodge in NZ but noticed there is nothing like that in Australia. If you were thinking of setting up a hostel style place, we'd be interested in exploring that with you."

Wow! God was clearly doing something here!

The family made plans to move back to Australia and we started looking for a house, trusting the Lord would provide the rest of the finances needed to pay it off.

Then, on October 7, 2023, tragedy struck in Israel as 1,200 Israelis lost their lives in a



horrific Hamas invasion from the Gaza Strip. The Israel-Hamas War has become a time of grief and sorrow, and Israel seems increasing isolated across the world in their efforts to live in peace.

As the war unfolded, we realised that the ZulaRoo vision might have an even greater



purpose than we initially thought. When Israeli travellers begin their journeys anew, they will be carrying the weight of trauma and heartache, seeking meaning and healing. With the rise in antisemitism worldwide, they may be questioning, "...Where is God in all of this?"

In the days following the attack in Israel, God continued to show us favour. We were able to acquire a spacious home along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria, exemplifying the tranquillity we aimed to offer Israeli travellers. This house surpassed our expectations in every

way, a clear sign that the Lord was guiding this project.

We got the keys to the home in December, and the first Israelis enjoyed their first stay eight days later. The home has the capacity to take in over 150 Israelis per year!

We invite you to join us in this vision, to show these young

Israelis the love of Yeshua, their Messiah whom they so desperately need to know.

Now, we need to secure the full cost of purchasing this home - \$1.4 million.

Will you join us?





Your prayers for this project are appreciated. If you would like to help purchase this ZulaRoo Surf House, please phone us or visit celebratemessiah.com.au/zularoo.

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ZULAROO HOSTS:

The Bolton Family



Corey Bolton is an outreach worker for Celebrate Messiah. You can contribute to the Boltons' ministry and invite Corey to speak at your organisation by visiting celebratemessiah.com.au/bolton-family

In 2019 God called our family to serve in Israel. We learned so much about the culture, language and He gave us many beautiful friendships and opportunities to talk to about Yeshua (Jesus).

But after several years God called us back to Australia to continue the next part of His exciting plan.

Every Israeli when they finish school must serve two to three years in the army. This can be a difficult and trying experience and for many it can be very traumatic.

Over time an interesting cultural phenomenon has developed in which these young Israelis take off around the world after their army service, almost as a rite of passage. Some deliberately getting as far from Israel as they can.

One of the most fruitful ways to meet Israelis and engage in Gospel conversations is by meeting them on the backpacker trail. In New Zealand this has been done for many years now at the Zula Lodge, a ministry of Celebrate Messiah. They offer accommodation and loving hospitality to backpackers as they travel. But for all the visitors coming to Australia, there is no such place for them to rest...until now!

We are so excited to now be a part of this exciting new ministry to establish a guest house in Apollo Bay, Victoria. The **ZulaRoo Surf House** will offer Israelis a place to explore, experience and encounter the Great Ocean Road, but most importantly, life in Yeshua.

The way that God has paved the way for our family in leading us to and from Israel, connecting us with Celebrate Messiah and providing tangibly for the ZulaRoo has been astounding. It is so clear that He has a very special plan and purpose for this ministry. We can't wait to see what happens next as we receive more guests.

We would love for you to partner with us through prayer and giving as we offer hospitality, hope and the Gospel message to the original messengers.

NOTES FROM PAST ISRAELI GUESTS very much for your amazing hosting, Thank you wouldn't express how you are such nice, warm, happy and diappin he as to an long and to any hon and to a long to any honor and strings and for any honor and the second and to a long good family. You opened your heart Halein we are in an you are this and your house for us, wanted to awating experience with you. W make us happy and we really www.na.eshereree www.hon.e. appreciate you for that. going for Islaeli Hanelers for You are an amazing family, thank and of conte bersonally you for accepting us without asking questions. We wish you health and you from our bottom? love. We will be happy to keep in touch for making us feel h with you and host you in our houses. such for away fro Always waiting for you in Israel. Love felt special beir very much. movies with Yair and Noya like friend Australi hosting us of your beautiful, loving, Open, hoppy home, We feel lucky Thank you so much for ben hoppy home, we teen way from to meet you here so for away from home. It has been a very special time nome it nos been a very specur init of no. we seawer wan han and in. Thank you for everything you do! You Trank you for everything you do! you ore amoring! We are waiting for you are writered as the continue of the c of sael of on house Mily love. So after being at the Himalc Hai and Hagar mountains, at Honeymoon islands, and trekking at th can definitely say: your h of our best. Thank you s warm welcome, the arr So here we are again, saying goodbye. the music, the prayers the smile. We can't w I really don't know how to thank you enough for everything you have some of our favorite done and been for me these past few months. A real home away from home. We wish you a lot (Somewhere safe and warm and loving. happiness, health Endless love. I'm really gonna miss my of "no worries" fo Aussie family... A really, beautiful family too. Thank you f I was lucky enough to be apart of. Lena and Shau Can't wait to see you again, maybe in Israel, maybe here in Australia. Lots of love. Noa and Keren JANUARY 2024 - **4**

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OPENING OUR DOORS AND HEARTS: HOST ISRAELIS

For more than two decades, Celebrate Messiah staff members have opened our homes to Israelis. This year, in collaboration with Chosen People Ministries, we launched Host Israelis - an official network dedicated to training hosts for welcoming Israeli backpackers into their homes. This ministry provides an avenue to extend hospitality and share the love of Yeshua with these young Israelis who have recently completed their military service. Here are a few testimonials from both our Israeli backpackers and hosts.





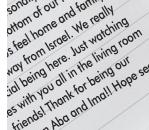
Lauren

I personally love it when [the Rabbi/Pastor from Celebrate Messiah] comes to visit, as I have a deep passion and heart for Israel and the Israeli people. Like Ruth, a gentile just as I am, I say to them, your God will be my God, and your people, my people! He mentioned that there is a great need to host Israeli travellers. After two to three years of mandatory army service, young Israelis tend to travel the world before settling down back in Israel. Often on a tight budget, they need a place to stay cost-free. What a beautiful opportunity to do unto the brothers and sisters of Yeshua and so do for my LORD (Matt 25:34-40). My husband and I immediately put our hands up.

It was a year later we hosted our first guests. My husband likes his space and generally doesn't enjoy sharing it with strangers, so this was a huge comfort zone expansion for him, but our first guests paved the way to continue hosting! They surprised us with their openness to talk about deep things and their wonderful sense of humour. There is much teasing in our home, and they fitted right in. We are still in touch with them and pray for them often - especially now during the war.

Ever since our first guests, we have come to love Israel and the Israelis more. They are open-minded, self-sufficient guests who clean up after themselves and even cook a meal or two for the family. Now, that is a blessing for me, a busy mum of three young girls. I have loved every conversation I have had with our guests. They have become friends with whom I will remain in contact. And, they've all offered their homes for us to stay in Israel when we get there. They are easy to talk to and willing to listen.

If you are considering hosting, I would say: "Don't hesitate!" It could become a beautiful ministry opportunity, but if not, a chance to meet some amazing people who will ultimately bless you, more than you might bless them.



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se friends! Aba and Ima!! Hope seeing You again. Gil and Reut

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Himalayan moon in private g at the bush, we your house is one (you so much for the the amazing dinners, rayers, and especially an't wait to show you avorite places in Israel.

a lot of nice guests, nealth, and LOVE. Many years ries" for Australia and for Israel, k you for everything!

d Shaul

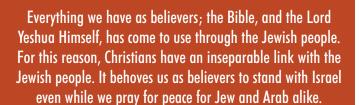
TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR HOSTS



When first approached to host Israelis, my intention was to assist Israel. If I couldn't go there and help in some way, then this would be ideal. Looking after the young people who had finished their army service, I thought I was the one helping but I was doubly blessed. Querying the Lord as to why I felt such intense love for these people I hosted, the answer of course was that this was how He felt, and I had His Spirit.

Over the years I have been hosting, many firm, loving friendships have developed. I am listing just a couple. Barak was hosted in 2009, became a part of my family and took grandson Joshua to the airport museum. Now Barak is a pilot and his home in Rishon LeZion is where I am warmly welcomed every time I visit Israel. The second is Aviel and Gal. A recently married couple now living in Apollo Bay for a few months. Aviel is a baker

and at the three Shabbat dinners we spent in my home, he made the challot. They are huggable friends. What would you get out of hosting? Looking at your city and country through fresh eyes, and if asked, being able to share your own Testimony. As Israelis relaxed in my company there were opportunities to answer their questions about Yeshua, my Messiah. Never forced and always knowing when to stop the conversation. It's such a privilege to share my life and my home.





WHY STAND WITH ISRAEL: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. We stand with Israel because Israel was created by God

Israel is a Biblical issue. The Bible predicted the return of the Jews back to Israel. As such Israel is the only nation created by a Sovereign act of God in the Book of Genesis. Israel was not born on May 15, 1948...it was born 3500 years ago when Almighty God made an Eternal covenant with Abraham, (Gen 12:1-3; Gen 13:14-18; Gen 15:18-21; Gen 17); which He confirmed to Isaac and later to Jacob (Israel) and his descendants (to Isaac in Gen 26:2-5; to Jacob in Gen 28:13-15; to Jacob's children in Gen 49).

2. We stand with Israel because the Bible commands us to pray for Israel

Those who believe the Bible are commanded in Psalms 122:6 to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces."

Israel is God's chosen people, God made a covenant with Abraham, the patriarch of the Jewish people, and promised to bless those who bless his descendants (Gen 12:1-3). God repeatedly affirmed His Covenantal relationship with Israel and His promises to them.

God still loves them "For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob [Israel] is the allotment of His inheritance. . . He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye." Deut 32:9–10

God has compassion for Israel's condition. God-like behaviour demands that we stand with Israel, Psalm 102:13–14 says:

"You [LORD] will arise and have compassion on Zion; for it is time to be gracious to her, for the appointed time

has come. Surely Your servants find pleasure in her stones and feel pity for her dust."

3. We stand with Israel because we believe in God's promises

What God has promised in Genesis 12:1-3 is to bless every person and nation who blesses Israel and to curse every person and nation that curses Israel. Many churches sing "Standing on the promises" by Russell Kelso Carter (1849-1928)

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Through eternal ages let His praises ring, Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.

Christians should become more vocal supporters of Israel's right to defend itself against attacks by Hamas and other militant groups. The church should also be critical of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which calls for a boycott of Israel and Jewish companies. God has a purpose for Israel and will stand against those who come up against His promises.

There are promises also made to the Church (Rom 15:27; Eph 1:3), and we should acknowledge that God will keep and fulfill His promises to both.

4. We stand with Israel because the Church shares Israel's spiritual blessings

Salvation is of the Jews! Jesus said those very words (John 4:22) which highlights the unique role of the Jewish people in God's plan of salvation. He argues that while salvation is ultimately available to all people, it originated with the Jewish people and was first revealed through their history and the Old Testament Scriptures.

Jesus Himself was a Jew, born into a Jewish family and raised within the Jewish tradition. He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament and established the New Covenant, which supersedes the Mosaic Covenant but does not negate its significance.

Israel is central to God's plan of salvation. God has made a promise that in the fullness of time all Israel will eventually come to know and worship God (Rom 11:25-26).

The apostle Paul has commanded all Gentile believers in Jesus, "For if the Gentiles have benefitted from their spiritual things (the Jewish people) it is the duty of the Gentiles to minister to them in material things." Rom 15:27. What spiritual blessings have the Jewish people given to us? The Word of God, the Patriarchs, the Prophets, the Messiah Jesus, the apostles, including the apostle Paul, and even our salvation. Take away the Jewish contribution to Christianity and there would be no Christianity.

5. We stand with Israel because we believe in the Kingdom of God

Scripture warns us that antisemitism will be punished:

"For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done [to Israel], it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head." Obad 15.

The Bible prophesies that Israel will play a central role in the end times, when Jesus will return to earth to establish



His kingdom. Praying for Israel is a way of praying for God's kingdom to come (See Matt 6:10, Zech 12:1-10, Rev 22:1-5).

Jesus affirms the Old Testament prophecies regarding the restoration of Israel as a nation. For instance, Matthew 24:32-34 states, "Truly I tell you, this generation [of the end times] will not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. As for that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." This passage suggests that Israel's restoration is a crucial event in God's plan, and its existence is tied to the fulfillment of biblical prophecies.

6. We stand with Israel in obedience to the Lord

Jesus the Messiah our Lord said, "I say to you, 'Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did

it to Me.'" (Matt 25:40). The phrase "My brethren" refers to the Jewish people. Jesus never called the Gentiles His brethren until the Cross.

7. We support Israel because Israel has the Biblical right to exist!

We call on the Church, to recognise Israel's right to exist and to stand with her and refrain from attacking her, for those that do, attack the promises of God and attack God Himself.

God made an **eternal**, **unconditional covenant** with Abraham (Gen 15), promising him that his descendants will be given the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession. This covenant is the basis for the Biblical claim that the Jewish people have a right to the Land of Israel.

8. God is a Zionist

Some examples of Biblical passages

a. Land Promises:

- Genesis 12:7: "And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land..."
- Deuteronomy 30:5: "And the Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shalt possess it; and He will do you good, and multiply you above your fathers."
- Ezekiel 36:28: "And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you (ye) shall be my people, and I will be your God."

b. Jerusalem's Significance in God's plan:

• Psalm 87:2-3 The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places in Jacob. Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. Selah

- Psalm 137:1-6: "By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill!
- Isaiah 2:3: "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."
- See also Zech 8:3 and Ps 122:6.

c. Restoration and Return:

- Isaiah 43:5-6 "Fear not: for I am with you: I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth."
 - Jeremiah 31:7-8: "For thus said the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth..."
 - Ezekiel 37:11b-12 "...Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore, prophesy and say unto them, Thus said the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."

These verses speak of a future gathering and restoration of the Jewish people to their land, which foreshadows the modern Zionist movement.

HOW CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL:

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:6-9)
- Pray for the salvation of the Jewish people. (Romans 10:1)
- Pray for the leaders of Israel. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- Pray for the protection of Israel. (Psalm 91:1-16)
- Pray for the prosperity of Israel. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)
- Pray for the Church to stand with Israel for the apostle to the Gentiles; Paul says: "I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means!" (Romans 11:1).

Conclusion

To all Bible believers, let us UNITE to stand up and speak up for the State of Israel, Pray for her safety and Pray for the Salvation of the Jewish People, for the Saviour will come to her and will save our Jewish brothers and sisters.

God has a place and a plan for Israel, will you speak up for her?



Paul Cohen is an outreach worker for Celebrate Messiah. He previously managed Brit Chadashah, which is now known as Beit Shalom, in Sydney, Australia. You can contribute to Paul's ministry, take his online courses, and invite him to speak at your organisation by visiting celebratemessiah.com.au/paul-cohen.

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THREE NEW COURSES

Embark on a journey of knowledge with our online courses this coming term. We have three available courses, which you can join live for Term 1, 2024: "Messiah in the Prophets", "Intermediate Biblical Hebrew, Part 1", and "Beginners Biblical Hebrew, Part 1". In our "Messiah in the Prophets" course, we will delve into both familiar and less well-known prophecies. This exploration aims to deepen our comprehension of God's plan of redemption, observe the fulfillment of messianic prophecies, and motivate us to incorporate these prophecies into conversations with Jewish friends and colleagues. Our Hebrew courses will further enhance our grasp of the original Scriptures by delving into the nuances of its language. Deepen your knowledge of Scripture and its Jewish roots by enrolling today!





3 Pack **\$50**





SUPPORT ZULAROO

We need to raise \$1.4m to cover the cost of the ZulaRoo. To learn more about ZulaRoo and if you would like to support this inspiring ministry go to celebratemessiah.com.au/ zularoo/

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Our Messianic Jewish Art Calendar will immerse your eyes and your spirit in the Holy Land with breath-taking

> photography and heartfelt intercessory prayer. A portion of every calendar sale goes to support ministry in Israel through the Tel Aviv Messianic Center. (September 2023 — December 2024)



MESSIANIC RESOURCES

Fill in the order form or visit our online store at celebratemessiah.com.au/shop for these and other great resources.

Due to ongoing delivery delays with Australia Post, we ask that you would be patient in receiving your order. It may take up to 4 to 6 weeks. All prices include postage and handling.

With our Appointed Times Planner,

journey into understanding the profound meanings of the Biblical Feast days and how Messiah has and will fulfil all the appointed times on God's clock. Join in celebrating local Israeli holidays and the weekly scripture readings used in Judaism around the world, and corresponding verses from the Brit Hadashah (New Testament) to understand that God's scripture is an integrated whole.

CELEBRATE MESSIAH

"Bringing the Message to the Original Messengers"

Serving together with Chosen People Ministries in: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Finland/Baltic States, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

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Donations can be deposited directly into the Celebrate Messiah bank account. Account name: Celebrate Messiah Ltd; BSB: 633-000; Account: 161768080 Please include name and purpose of gift in direct deposit reference.

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