

Las Vegas Israelite

Ethiopian Jews Suffer In Famine

By Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum

"I worry about my family day and night. I just can't stop wondering how they are able to stay alive." That comment was made last week by a black Jew from Ethiopia, one of 7,000 Falashas now living in Israel.

The deeply religious Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel is anguished over the suffering inflicted on their brothers and sisters by the famine that rages in Ethiopia. There are some 7,000 Falashas living in the northern region of the Gondar Province. Some, 10,000 Falashas are huddled together in refugee camps in nearby Sudan and Kenya. It is estimated that about 2,000 of them have died over the past year as a result of the famine.

In recent weeks, the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel, although impoverished, launched a massive fund-raising drive for Ethiopian relief, and Israel has sent 100,000 pounds of food and medicines to Ethiopia for all the starving people, regardless of their religion.

In the United States, the American Joint Distribution Committee -- the JDC -- announced that it had reached an agreement with the Ethiopian Government to operate feeding stations in the Gondar region. According to the JDC's executive vice president, Ralph Goldman, nearly a half million people in Gondar, one of the four provinces especially hard-hit by a prolonged drought, face starvation. Goldman reported that



thanks to an outpouring of generosity of American Jews and the U.S. Government, JDC has just shipped 70 tons of medical supplies, food, and clothing to Ethiopia.

Recently, I joined Catholic and Protestant leaders in Washington in a public appeal to President Reagan and Congress to take emergency measures for providing food now not only for Ethiopia but for at least six other African countries that face terrible famine. None of us --Jews or Christians -- can sit idly by while so many human lives are at stake.

Maccabean Miracle

By Issachar Miron

- If might is concrete, Even when walking the tightrope; And spirit stays tenaciously abstract, Even when headdown, On a flying trapeze; Then the victory, Of spirit over might, Affirms the reconciliation Of the absolute, Within humanity's infinitude of light.
- If the matter relates to mind, Even on the tip of the tongue; And the soul perceives Deeper than the brain, Even when martyred In the gas chamber hell; Then decency and morality. Overpowering intolerance and bigotry, Celebrate eternity's Symphony of hope, In and within the uniqueness, Of our lives, Dreams and telepathy.

If the myocardium of the heart Reigns aerobically muscular, Even when riding unconsciously, In between the cars of imagination; And the conscious solidity Of space might be invisible Even to some intellectual minds With acuteness of vision; Then the millenial miracle Of the universality Of eight nights of light, Still illuminates our pathways, Solemnizing the recurring factor, Of faith and freedom for all, To linger on and pass on, From parents to children, And children's children,

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