



**The Ethiopian  
National Project**  
הפרויקט הלאומי של עולי אתיופיה

May 2010/ Iyar  
5770

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Nigist Mengesha

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**Contact ENP**

[www.enp.org.il](http://www.enp.org.il)  
[grace@enp.org.il](mailto:grace@enp.org.il)  
011-972-2-620-2843

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## Ethiopian National Project (ENP) E-News

Dear Friend,

Today, May 12, 2010 (28 Iyar, 5770), we commemorate the Memorial Day for the 4,000 Ethiopian Jews who perished in the mid-80s on the way to Sudan or in refugee camps in Sudan while waiting to make aliyah. Of the approximately 12,000 Ethiopian Jews who set out on foot across mountains and deserts from Ethiopia to Sudan, only 8,000 survived the journey.

It is no coincidence that this Memorial Day falls on Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim). Throughout their history, Ethiopian Jews have longed to return to Jerusalem, and this desire has been an integral part of their identity.

However, the miraculous return of the community to Israel was just the beginning. The Ethiopian National Project's task is to secure the future of the Ethiopian-Israeli community in Israel, focusing on the most pressing social and educational needs of Ethiopian Israeli youth. Memorial Day is therefore an opportune time to reflect on how far we've come and the challenges that still await us on the road ahead. With your support, we can transform our vision of the Ethiopian-Israeli community into a reality.

Best wishes,

Dr. Nigist Mengesha  
Director-General, ENP

### On Yom Yerushalayim, Remembering Those Who Perished



Students commemorating Memorial Day for those who perished in Sudan.

Many of the participants in ENP's programs have parents and older siblings who survived the perilous journey from Ethiopia to Sudan before making *aliyah* to Israel via the miraculous Operation Moses. Esther, a participant in the ENP Scholastic Assistance Program in Ashkelon, shares the story of her mother, Leah, a survivor of this journey. Despite losing several family members and suffering intense hardship, Esther's mother remains a pillar of strength in her family.

Click [here](#) to read why Esther sees her mother as a role model and is inspired by her courage.

### Ha'aretz Praises ENP for "Bridging the Gaps"

ENP was recently featured in Ha'aretz, Israel's popular and influential daily newspaper. [Click here](#) to view "Bridging the Gaps," the powerful and comprehensive article about ENP's work.

You can read more news and features on ENP [here](#).

**HAARETZ.com**



**BRIDGING THE GAPS**

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) provides educational support, special programming in youth outreach centers and more to help Ethiopian-Israeli teens bridge scholastic and social gaps and integrate more fully into Israeli society / Ilana Kraus



### Did You Know? ENP, Self Confidence and Self Esteem

Did you know that ENP's Scholastic Assistance Program and Youth Outreach Centers are proven to build self confidence and increase self esteem among Ethiopian-Israeli youth? ENP Scholastic Assistance provides supplementary hours of educational support to students in small groups, addressing the social and personal barriers to success that they face. ENP Youth Centers provide educational, social, personal development and leadership development workshops for teens.

- 70-80% of the participants in ENP's Scholastic Assistance Program reported an increase in their self image, interpersonal relations and perseverance (Branco Weiss Institute, September 2009).
- A Myers-JDC-Brookdale evaluation of ENP Youth Centers (2008) reports an increase from 56% to 75% of ENP Youth Center participants who are prepared to raise hands and answer questions in class, a likely indication of increased self confidence as an outcome of their involvement in ENP's Youth Centers.

## Meet Our Volunteers!

ENP volunteers hail from the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies, WUJS Israel Hadassah, the Dorot Fellowship, Hebrew University in Jerusalem and beyond. Our volunteers are committing their time and energy towards ensuring a better future for Ethiopian-Israelis and for Israel. [Click here to read about our volunteers.](#)

Interested in getting involved? There are many ways to support ENP. You can learn more about volunteering opportunities on our website or by contacting Grace Rodnitzki, Director of International Relations, at [grace@enp.org.il](mailto:grace@enp.org.il).

### **Ethiopian National Project**

1 Ibn Gvirol Street  
P.O. Box 7171  
Jerusalem 91071  
Israel

From USA: Tel: 011-972-2-620-2843 \* Cell: 011-972-52-613-0722 \* Fax: 011-972-2-620-2455  
Email: [grace@enp.org.il](mailto:grace@enp.org.il) \* Website: [www.enp.org.il](http://www.enp.org.il)

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