

## *Pk's Perspectives ... When God Calls...Answer.*

*"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Henry Drummond*

A group of American cowboys from Montana and Arkansas answered a call for help from Israelis in need of labor as the war with Hamas has caused foreign agriculture workers to flee, and reservists to leave their day jobs to fight in Gaza. "I actually left several hundred tons of hay still on the field back home," Ezekiel Strain, a farmer from Montana, told *The Daily Wire*. "When I heard the war broke out, this was the important thing to do." Strain is joined by his brother Yoseph Strain, John Plocher from Montana, and Luke Hutslar from Arkansas.

Since they arrived a couple of weeks ago, the group has worked in Judea and Samaria building security roads and volunteering on farms. They filled hundreds of boxes with peppers picked for a local farmer that had been called up to the reserves. "If they weren't here, those peppers wouldn't be getting picked like they are today," said Joshua Waller, the director of operations of HaYovel, the group that brought the cowboys.

Plocher and his fellow cowboys are volunteers with Operation Ittai, a project spearheaded by HaYovel, a Christian volunteer organization that works in "Judea and Samaria, the area more commonly known as the West Bank. Operation Ittai is named after the non-Jewish commander in King David's army in 2 Samuel 15:19-23," according to Waller. "We thought, 'Hey, what a fitting name,'" Waller said. "Israel is in a really tough spot right now, we need non-Jews to come and be a part of strengthening the Jewish community. Here in this region that we've been serving with for 20 years, it is a bit of a vacant spot. Nobody is thinking about it, nobody is talking about it, but really this is the fourth front of the battle," Waller said. "We're surrounded by about about two million Arabs and about 500,000 Jews here, and we have our hands full."

The group of "cowboys" have all been to Israel before to volunteer for Waller's group, and plan to stay for a few weeks. The cowboys said they are not deterred by Israel being at war because they realize how essential it is that agriculture and construction projects keep moving. "A lot of the fathers and men are on the border there so there's a lot less people here to do the work and they need the help," said Ezekiel Strain. His brother, Yoseph Strain, said that the need of Israel surpasses any concern of his about safety. "People said you should wait, wait until it's safer but there's no reason to wait," he said. "If this is when they need us, then this is when we are going to come."

Plocher said the group wanted to do more than just support Israel with words. "Nowadays people support a lot with their lips, but not a whole lot of people actually stand up for what they think," he said. "So when I was given the opportunity to come, I wanted to come." The cowboys have also been making trips to meet Israelis including attending a barbecue with locals, visiting the wounded, and visiting the family of Rose Lubin — an American killed in a terrorist attack earlier this month. "I just want to be here and help," Plocher said. "I didn't expect to be able to encourage the Jewish people on this level and I am humbled by it and just glad that I can." (*adapted from an article by Kassy Dillon on [dailywire.com](http://dailywire.com)*)