



Falasha gather in front of their mud synagog with Mogen David on the roof. (Photos by Lillian Desow-Fishbein)

David, a symbol, certainly, of the ancient land of Zion, but Ethiopia is to them their homeland.

Nevertheless, many prominent Israelis have aided the Falasha. Perhaps the star of Israeli help is a young physician, Dr. Mario Felszer, who, by way of giving three years of his professional life to the Falasha, has emerged as another Dr. Albert Schweitzer in his zeal, his compassion and medical assistance. He was the guide on my visit among Ethiopia's Jews and I found him one of the most inspiring individuals I have ever known. For in the three primitive clinics he established for the Falasha, he has achieved what only an inspired man could do.

Hundreds Treated

The clinics are so primitive that most doctors probably would throw up their hands at the idea that they should be considered institutions for treating the sick. Everything is lacking—medicines, equipment, nurses. Yet hundreds of ill Falasha are treated there. And they are as grateful as if the small mud clinics were Mayo Clinics. To the young Israeli physician they display affection akin to worship.

Dr. Felszer is more than a physician. He is also a counselor on all their problems—and their hopes. And he devotes much energy to getting fellow Jews in Israel, England, the United States and elsewhere to share his interest in the Falasha.

I have to admit that, though Dr. Felszer encourages the Falasha to keep their spirits high, he himself is becoming discouraged. He especially feels that not enough help comes from American Jews and that it is now substantial help must come. Soon it will be too late.

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