Dear Eretz Hemdah Family,

Unfortunately it appears that the current king is the crown - Corona. This period has been especially challenging, in the medical, economic, and spiritual-emotional dimensions. At Eretz Hemdah, of course, the Torah challenge is also of primary concern. We continue to work for the King, the King of Kings, Hashem, and see the situation as a challenge that Hashem has set for us. We shall therefore continue with all our strength to raise the young rabbis to the highest level of Torah scholarship, and persist in producing Torah scholars whose conduct and consideration for those around them, in all areas, can serve as a model for all. Torah scholars who provide a personal example of perseverance in Torah study, even in a small apartment and surrounded by young children; who provide a personal example of how to improve their relationship with their wives; who provide a personal example to their children and their entire family of how interpersonal sensitivity is an integral part of worshiping Hashem. Rabbis who continue to be attentive to the needs of the Jewish people and who provide deep and open-minded Responsa. Torah scholars who spread the written and oral Torah, even if the only way they can do so today is on Zoom. Torah scholars who stringently abide by all the social-distancing rules of this difficult period, without cutting corners, and who become true leaders out of choice and not by popular elections.

We wish a full recovery to all the ill and pray for an end of the pandemic. We will do everything in our power so that everyone will enjoy good health in every respect.

Rav Moshe Ehrenreich
Rav Yosef Carmel
Heads of the Institute

Why am I happy to be indebted to Eretz Hemdah?
That is, a debt of gratitude

Adv. Shalom Wasserteil, one of the founders of Eretz Hemdah, a member and Chairman of its board for many years

Shortly after Eretz Hemdah was founded, my friend Prof. Israel Aharoni, may Hashem grant him a full and speedy recovery, asked me to join the Eretz Hemdah family. Ever since then I have been grateful to him, to the heads of Eretz Hemdah, and to all the members of its board.

Many reasons to why I am happy to be grateful.

1. As an entrepreneur who is engaged in redeeming land and building the country (along with my son Emmanuel), I thank Hashem for the opportunity I have been given to be a partner in the spiritual growth of our people as well. Eretz Hemdah is a Torah institution that steers the elite of the elite of Religious Zionism towards dayanut and Torah leadership, both in education and in the rabbinate, with a systematic approach, persistence, humility, and integrity. This Beit Midrash, a place of Torah, founded under the presidency of my rabbi and teacher, Rav Shaul Israeli zt"l, has been operating and growing for thirty-three years. When I was a student at Mercaz HaRav, he taught us that redemption includes the physical dimension and, above it, the spiritual dimension, which must be closely tied to each other. The Eretz Hemdah Institute was founded under the leadership of my dear friends, may Hashem avenge their souls, Rav Moshe Ehrenreich and Rav Yosef Carmel. They too are closely tied to each other, with an a-inspiring commitment and persistence.

2. A ben Torah (Torah learner) and a lawyer, I am delighted by the opportunity to be a partner in a place where my years-old dream reached fruition. The Eretz Hemdah-Gazit network of rabbinical courts for monetary matters was founded with the goal of juxtaposing one world against another as pertains to the field of rabbinical courts. Indeed, after years of arduous and unfailing effort, one step at a time, the court network's reputation has spread throughout Israel and the world. This is a network of rabbinical courts whose dayanim are, thank G-d, free of moral blemishes, who sanctify G-d’s name while acting as a magnet that attracts the full range of those courts whose dayanim are, thank G-d, free of moral blemishes, who sanctify and unfailing effort, one step at a time, the court network's reputation as pertains to the field of rabbinical courts. Indeed, after years of arduous matters was founded with the goal of juxtaposing one world against another, I am delighted by the opportunity to be a partner in a place where my years-old dream reached fruition.

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As someone who has had the experience of serving as a shaliach in France, I am excited to be a partner in the Manhigut Toranit program, which trains emissaries who are Torah scholars and halachic deciders, along with a formal program for their wives as well. Its first fruits have already had a positive impact on communities in the Diaspora.

As a native of Jerusalem, because my son, Rabbi Yair, is one of the dayanim, who observe Torah and mitzvot. Its reputation has reached the entire Eretz Hemdah family, who assemble from all over our country.

As the son of the editor of many Torah writings, especially Shmirat Shabbat ke-Hilchatah, as well as several volumes of Responsa Bemareh Habazak, and also as a father to an editor, my son Rabbi Raphael, I am happy to be a partner in Eretz Hemdah’s response projects, Responsa Bemareh Habazak in Hebrew and “Ask the Rabbi” in other languages, primarily English, which serve rabbis and dayanim of the communities and the lay members in many communities in the Diaspora. This is a wonderful service that includes an element of practical training of communities and the lay members in many communities in the Diaspora.

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