

# Faces of Jews in far-flung places



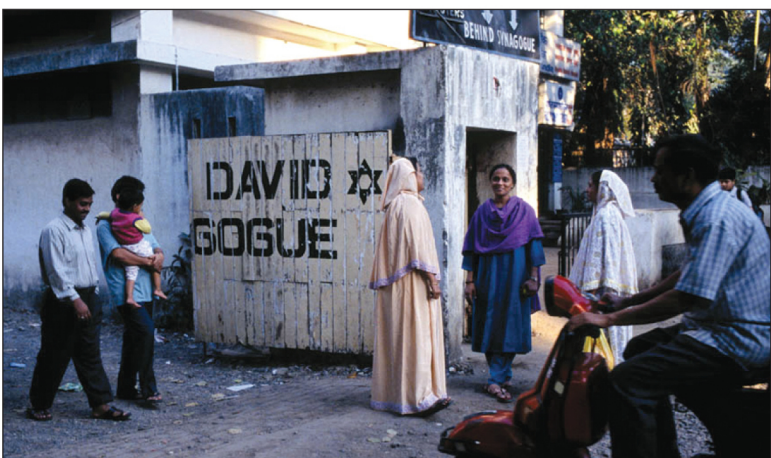
For decades, Jack Klass managed what many say was the world's largest ostrich empire while serving as president of his synagogue in Oudtshoorn, South Africa. Jack's close-cropped white hair, ruddy complexion, prominent nose and brow, stocky build and powerful hands do not so much suggest refined leadership as an Israeli general — just the sort of man to command respect from this 130-year-old Jewish community of ostrich farmers and small-town businessmen.



Lemuel Henkhogin Haokip, the longtime Benei Menashe Council Secretary, chauffeurs a typical, three-wheeled "auto-rickshaw" taxi — distinguishable from other local taxis only by its friendly, Jewish greeting: "Shalom." Lemuel lives (and drives) in Imphal, in the Indian state of Manipur. Being in this region, so isolated from other Jewish communities, Lemuel explains, "we were 'lost' for many centuries, but our forefathers' folktales and legends remained," connecting the community to ancient Israel. Lemuel recounts that the Old Testament was first translated locally in 1979, adding, proudly, "After reading the Bible, we came to know ourselves again."



In Sefwi Wiawso, Ghana, Marta Nipah stands by a neighbor's wall, where a young community member has drawn with a piece of coal. Marta is always cooking: for her family, for guests and for others in the community. She cooks over fires, lacking the money for a gas stove.



Residents of Bombay, India, bustle past the gate of the Magen David synagogue, built in 1861, the largest of the city's six remaining synagogues. Tucked in a courtyard off a major thoroughfare, it is almost unnoticed.