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Favor Zion Ministries

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Shalom Haveirim- blessings of fullness and joy to **you, my friends**.
May you prosper and be in health- even as your souls prosper!

The month of Tishrei ends, and with it the final feasts of the Levitical calendar. We celebrated the Blowing of the Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the weeklong Feast of Tabernacles. These were important appointed events, final celebrations of the Biblical year.

Jeffrey D. Miller and I recorded some highly charged shows for *Messianic Minutes*, dealing with the Feast of Tabernacles. Some of the things we shared were: It is a Holy convocation. The Feast is backed with the symbolism of the Sukkah, the Lulov and the Etrog. Yeshua himself felt compelled to attend. During the illumination and water pouring ceremonies Yeshua revealed Himself as the Word made flesh. He was teaching in the Temple. The religious leaders had dragged a woman caught in the act of adultery right into the midst of Jesus' class and asked a trick question, a sh'eilah ^a. His answer showed us the Father's heart, and how much better are His thoughts and ways than ours.

And there's more to come in the Olam ha ba^b. Yeshua will return. Zechariah tells us His return will not be as the meek and quiet lamb. No, Jesus is coming back as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He is coming back to Jerusalem to conquer and to rule. Then all the nations will celebrate Him as the true King and make a yearly pilgrimage to Mt. Zion to worship the Living God.

If you would like the two-CD set, which really expounds on these Biblical truths and packs an encouraging wallop, please write and let me know. It would be my gift to you, my friend, and co-laborer in the Kingdom.

There are three main items I want to share with you in this month's newsletter, concerning events, which have occurred or are still occurring. The fourth is a matter of prayer.

**MESSIANIC MINUTES NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL RELIGIOUS
BROADCASTERS "BEST TEACHING SHOW ON RADIO"**

Messianic Minutes has been nominated as the best teaching program on Christian Radio! Let me say that again, because Jeffrey D. and I are still overwhelmed and deeply humbled: *the National Religious Broadcasters have nominated Messianic Minutes* as the best teaching show on radio. The winner will be announced at their convention in February 2007.

- (a) A sh'eilah is a question- usually about The Torah or more specifically how to walk out the Torah. In John chapter 8 verses 1-11 Yeshua gives a teaching that only The Living Word had the authority and depth to deliver.
(b) The world to come- see Matthew 12: 30-32 and Joel 1:15 until the end.

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We feel so honored to be considered for the award. Remember *Messianic Minutes* is a tiny, five-minute show. It is aired across the USA and Canada on about 42 stations. Our one-hour specials run on approximately 200 stations, usually on a weekend. We've been recording the show for fourteen years, and honestly we do it out of obedience to what we sense is a great need in The Body of Messiah at the direction of Adonai.

The show started out as a vision. We began producing it before we even had a radio station willing to give us airtime. Then, the Lord opened one station, and then another and another, all the while supplying the needs and encouraging us. What began with very small beginnings has been recognized as a useful teaching ministry by those in the broadcasting profession, and by spiritual people of influence.

We have faced some disappointments including changes at radio stations or exorbitant charges to include us on some of the larger stations. Other stations sold out to secular buyers and some Christian stations still refuse to air, "the Jewish stuff."

These and other disappointments cannot override our many successes. We have been extremely blessed by the many Christian radio stations airing the show regularly, and the faithful prayer and financial support of listeners around North America. Listeners hear the show and are motivated to share the gospel with Jewish friends and family. People write in to tell us how we have touched their hearts with insights, which have led to positive actions. We have answered hundreds of questions helping to build up the "one new man" and make the church much more sensitive (and receptive) to her Jewish roots. The Covenant promises of God have been made clear to Gentile listeners, who may not otherwise hear these teachings.

Neither Jeff nor I have ever received a shekel (or a penny) for our work on the radio. It is a ministry where all of the listener donations are needed just to pay the production costs and bills. We rely on The Ruach (Holy Spirit) speaking to the hearts of our listeners. Yeshua has been faithful all of these years. Those of you who support *Favor Zion* with your prayers and financial support really do help to under gird *Messianic Minutes*.

Obviously I would like you to pray. Can I be so bold as to ask you to pray that we win? Winning couldn't hurt, nu? Now you know me- I've said that we're not doing this for fame, glory or finances, and would shun the publicity except to the extent that it would advance The Kingdom. But, *Messianic Minutes* has advanced the Kingdom. Just being nominated is a boon, and getting a little positive publicity should help in getting the word out to reach more people.

These are critical times- *when good teaching about Israel and the Church is needed all over*. People's hearts need stoking to stay hot for what will happen in Israel and around the world. *Messianic Minutes* is a voice crying in the wilderness. One last thought- while its only five minutes, Jeff and I do seem to talk like easterners- in that we put a lot into each show! Not much fluff, just the Word. Five minutes a day, five days a week, the Biblical, Hebraic Truth of Jesus the Messiah is taught. Please pray!!

Church of the City

When we moved to Baltimore I envisioned helping to promote the Church of the City. The Biblical viewpoint is how Rabbi Saul (Paul) addresses the churches in his letters, and how the elders of a city were the spiritual gatekeepers for that region. Much of the success we had in Frederick MD was to assist pastors in seeing beyond the four walls of their sanctuaries and to begin understanding a heavenly perspective of a region.

In Frederick we inaugurated and grew a community Feast of Tabernacles celebration. As I have previously mentioned, Zechariah shows in the last days, ***all the nations*** will come together and worship The King of Kings. My pitch to the spiritual leaders, only slightly tongue-in-cheek, was that soon you shall be celebrating The Feast with people from all these different denominations and cultures, Why not start practicing now!

Well, it took a while to catch on in Fredrick, and for relationships to become trusting enough for pastors to allow or urge their congregations to attend. The goal to build up the Body of Messiah and not just one particular church is a concept that many acknowledge, but one which takes a lot of courage and faith to implement.

Later, many, many churches and leaders responded! We would pack out the Weinberg Theatre Center with a joyous celebration, acknowledging our differences and ethnic backgrounds, but majoring on the King of us all- the Lord Yeshua. Celebrating a Levitical Feast by all the churches, honoring the diverse pastoral leadership represented, but focused on Him – who unites us! Behold how good and how pleasant it is when Believers dwell together in unity! What a joy.

So since moving to Baltimore, I have been praying what my role in the Body of Messiah might be. I believe that part of the mandate of **Favor Zion Ministries**, is to train up a new generation of pastors, who understand the Jewish/Hebraic roots of the faith, and who see the growth of the city-wide Body of Messiah, The city-wide Church can be a strategic weapon which will pull down strongholds and forcibly advance the Kingdom.

I have been blessed to begin a relationship with a young inner-city pastor, who has begun a storefront work in the heart of a neighborhood. I've spent time with this young man, and I've taught at his congregation. It's been a small, but exciting beginning. People wander in off the street into the service. They get saved and empowered by the Spirit, to live an overcoming life in the midst of the darkest sinful part of a city long plagued with strife and division.

This pastor has a heart for the Lord and is open to mentoring. He is connected with many other pastors all working in similar ministries. Let's pray that this relationship continues and in fact flourishes. Let's pray that some of my experience will be useful to this congregation and to this city. There is a lot of zeal here. I believe in the Spirit the potential is here to take back what the *enemy* has stolen, and then to move forward with a strong united witness.

Arab-Jewish Reconciliation

Arab–Jewish reconciliation has always been on my heart as a necessary outward and recognizable sign that Yeshua is truly the King of all people. When Jews and Arabs can love one another, there is a fresh, overcoming hope to all people that the Prince of Peace can reign in their hearts and lands. The Washington Post featured an article with my friend Ramzi and me proclaiming, “The Bible has the Message of Peace”. We were thrilled and emboldened when the article explained that only through Jesus could Jews and Arabs find reconciliation. This is the plan for Jewish people and this is the plan for Arab people. It’s through Him that all the nations will be blessed. It’s through Him that peace will come to the hearts and lives and lands of warring peoples. In Him are the covenant promises fulfilled!

But not all ministries that help the least and lost are really Christian. Diane and I went as guests and observers to a gathering in Washington DC where the budget of the organization helping Arab people with physical help totaled over \$30 million dollars. Physical help is good, but the preaching of the gospel needs to accompany it. There are also Christian organizations that help physically, but not spiritually. This creates a void that is filled with both despair and oftentimes anti-Messiah leanings.

I want to share with you our sadness by a few things we heard at this fancy hotel and large banquet. Dr. Shibley Telhami was the featured speaker. He is supported by Maryland taxpayers as a teacher at the University of Maryland, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Telhami said only 6% of Moslems support the Taliban and the very religious ideas of Islam, but that a vast majority will support the Taliban, Hamas and other violent groups if they stand up against Israel and America. He strongly implied that if America abandons Israel, then Moslem people would accept it. Dr. Telhami used code phrases like “Palestinian justice”, which really means destruction of Israel. He implied that it was not religious zeal, which motivates the terrorists. We know that the final words of the 9-11 hijackers were attempting to honor their god.

Diane and I could not believe at first the tactics of the enemy: to tell the boldest lie up front and then go on as if you were speaking truth. We were deeply saddened to see that in sophisticated Washington D.C. such a lie with such illogical thinking would be so smilingly swallowed. We were in fact horrified. I hope that you will pray with me that eyes will be opened and truth will prevail.

The Covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob contains promises about The Land, the birth of Yeshua as Messiah, and the promise of blessing to those who bless Israel and the Jewish people. Likewise, promises of curses come to those who go against these Scriptural fundamentals.

You all know that I always preach that God is far bigger than we can imagine, and His ways will confound the simple- us. He promises covenant faithfulness to the Jewish people **and** blessings to the Arab peoples. God is big enough to do both- it’s not one side or the other side- its His Way that is right. We have a lot of prayer ahead of us! But we have a lot to look forward to seeing. After all we are a generation, which is witnessing first hand that which the prophets longed to see.

The outgoing president of this large organization then spoke a disheartening message at this same gathering. He used the phrase “never again” in reference to Israel having to go into Gaza and Lebanon to root out terrorist. By saying “never again” a phrase used by Jewish people in reference to the holocaust and the murder of millions of Jewish people, he was giving moral equivalence to the Israeli limited military actions and the systematic killing of millions of Jewish people. It was infuriating.

A TRUE STORY

Let me tell you a story. On my first trip to Israel, and on the return trip home, I was in line at Ben Gurion airport. The person in front of me was an important Arab man, traveling on a Syrian passport. Well, the security people asked him some questions and then opened his suitcase. Every article in his suitcase was removed and inspected (including socks and underwear), and the empty suitcase was scanned. Years later I heard that man speak of that incident without going into any detail, but he told the audience that he was “tortured” by Israeli officials at the airport. Now I had seen the whole event. I was a firsthand witness to all that happened. It was perhaps embarrassing, maybe a bit degrading, but given the security threat, I was glad the Israelis were so thorough. The guy was not “tortured.” But that’s what he said and the remarks were reported as fact.

In the same way truth is being compromised in much of what is being said today. Listen friends, there are people who call good evil and evil good. There’s no equating the killing of innocent people by terrorists with the steps necessary to do the first job of any sovereign nation- provide for the common defense- protect its citizens. Having your luggage inspected cannot be compared to videotaped beheadings and other atrocities we’ve seen inflicted on people because they were Jewish or American!

What I want to say is that we need to pray for believers to rise up into positions of leadership and to act as Yeshua would act. And if we do give a cup of cold water, let’s do it in His Name. And if we do support humanitarian organizations, let’s only support those who minister in His name. For there is no other name under heaven by which people must be save!

One last item is a prayer request for a need I see to add more staff people to minister. We would want to do that in a way that is adequate and pleasing to the Lord. Thank you for praying for all our needs.

Blessings to you my friends,

Ted

PS: Your support for this ministry really does advance Jesus’ Kingdom. We truly appreciate your prayers and your financial support.