

RABBI TED SIMON

Favor Zion Ministries

November 2006
Heshvan/Kislev

Shalom Haveirim:
(Hello to you, my friends)

And, blessings in the Name of Adonai- Yeshua, our Messiah.

At this time of year whether in reality or in fantasy most people's thoughts are on the anticipation of going home. However people travel, the magnetic draw is the lure of being with a large or small group of friends and relatives. The freedom of going home to enjoy the fun and food of the holidays is something millions of people take for granted.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be exiled and not be able to return to your ancestral home for 2700 years? During November 218 Jews from a group of about 7000 in India, who were exiled there by the Assyrian empire, will return to their homeland, the Land of Israel. Permission to immigrate has just been granted them according to an October article by Aaron Klein of WorldNetDaily.com Jerusalem bureau.

This people group believes they are one of the 10 "lost tribes" of Israel, descendants of Manasseh, son of Joseph and grandson of Jacob. It was found that the group had continued to preserve the ancient Jewish customs and rituals.

During the last ten years Michael Freund, chairman of Shavei Israel, the organization spearheading the return of the tribe, has been working with other organizations and different rabbis and have brought approximately 800 Bnei Menashe members to their home in Israel. Assistance is granted by three sources; the Jewish Agency, the main Israeli absorption organization, Shavei Israel, and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, an American-based grassroots coalition of Christians and Jews, headed by Rabbi Eckstine. While Rabbi Eckstine, is **not Messianic**, the organization has at times been used to fulfill prophesy. (We at **Favor Zion Ministries** encourage believers to give monetary support to organizations, who share The Good News –**these organizations do not!!!**)

The tribe members were originally brought in as tourists and then were converted officially to Judaism to become citizens. Many have assimilated into their new culture by attending college and rabbinic school. They moved into major Israeli communities and also became part of the military defending their homeland. Freund said, "The immigration of these 218 should jump start the process of bringing back the rest of the 7000 Bnei Menashe who are in India yearning to return home."

The process of the transition from India to Israel has encountered problems, but we trust all 7000 exiled descendants will be granted their desire to live and work in Israel.

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“So the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion; And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy. And sorrow and sighing will flee away.” Isaiah 51:11

Jewish descendants from many nations are continuing to move back to Israel. Ministries sponsored by TIKKUN International are providing physical, financial and spiritual support through outreach from Tents of Mercy and others. These ministries speak openly about Yeshua and the need for Salvation.

Rabbi Saul (Paul) refers to us as being strangers, aliens, and sojourners in our journey here on earth. His emphasis is that our homeland has not been made by hands, but is in heaven with God. Yes, we long to return to our homes especially during the holidays, but our focus needs to be on our eternal home. In the meantime we concentrate on abiding in Yeshua and loving Him with all our heart, soul and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Matt. 22:37-40, Deut. 6:5

In this month and season of thankfulness, we are grateful for the love and support you have faithfully given us through prayer and monthly giving, sometimes sacrificially.

Your assistance is never taken for granted.

I will close with Aaron's blessing over you and your household:

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26*

In Yeshua's service,

Ted

Wise as serpents, gentle as doves, and eternally thankful!

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