

Favor Zion Ministries

“Now is the set time to Favor Zion”–Psalm 102:13

April/May 2008
Adar II/ Nisan 5768

Shalom Haveirim
(The Fullness and Peace of His Blessings to you) my friends:

Many of you remarked that the discrepancy in the calendar, which I highlighted in last month's newsletter, has also caused you to rethink Biblical Feasts and Convocations vs. man's hubris. You also heard my heart- that the celebration of Yeshua's Resurrection is a foundational hope of the Good News- in fact if Jesus didn't rise from the dead; we would deserve scorn and pity.

Yeshua's death and resurrection, the first fruit of many brethren to rise from the dead, fulfills the Feast of First Fruits, and it provides the ultimate sign of His Divinity. For those of you who have been with us to Israel, we literally have seen the garden tomb, and it is empty- He is Risen!

Early Easter/Late Passover

Passover season for the Church was abnormally early because of the insistence of church leaders to divorce the Feasts from their Hebraic/Jewish roots. God hates divorce- and this is just one example. I chose to lead many churches in a Passover- the Communion Connector Seder, because the joy and insights experienced trumped the more subtle nuances of the seasonal celebrations. Also, I never blame churches today for the ignorance of the past. I teach the truth in love, and let the Ruach speak to the hearts of leaders and members today.

And what joy we did experience at many of the churches. Martin Kaiser accompanied me to every Passover. Together we must have eaten two pounds of horseradish (bitter herb). Terry Land ministered with us at one service- and that was truly special- for the three of us to be together- each of us enjoying the people and the joy they were experiencing. Some of the pictures we have included give you an idea of the fun, depth of teaching, and festivities.

It's not too early to discuss having a Passover Seder with your local pastor or denomination. Next year Passover and Easter are in synch and the schedule will fill up quickly. My heart is to serve, but to fulfill our commission we need your recommendations and intercession.

The Passover celebration is an ideal introduction to the role of Israel and the Church in these end-times. The service is a very special opportunity for strengthening the Body and reaching out to people who are curious about God, but reluctant to come to a regular church service.



Rabbi Simon, Terry Land
Standing before Seder Table



Martin Kaiser at Information
Booth



Seder participants
fellowshipping

Personal Passover

My own personal Passover will be on the 15 of Nissan- which corresponds this year to April 19. Diane already has a lot of cleaning designated my way, as well as the huge job she does. Jenna is home to help, and we look to have between 12-16 people at our home for the meal and Seder.

As you know Seders are like beautiful snowflakes from the standpoint that no two are the same. There are variations from family to family as well as from year to year. This year at my own home Seder, I am going to emphasize Abba's covenant faithfulness while fulfilling the scriptural mandate to include the Matzos, bitter herb and the lamb.

Abba's faithfulness to His Word gives us assurance of our salvation. Of course, following God takes faith. It took a lot of faith to believe and act accordingly when the Israelites were told to apply blood to the doorposts of their home in Egypt so their firstborn sons would be spared. This was an unusual request and one that had never been done before. Many of the people responded in faith, their children were spared and deliverance from Egyptian bondage followed.

I plan on exploring how we can stand completely on God's promises starting with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, then going on to Joseph, the Israelites and the mixed multitude that left Egypt. He is God and when he makes a promise it is sure and certain. This is pretty elemental, but as I thought about Joseph in prison, Moses in the wilderness and hundreds of thousands of people enslaved, the depth of His love becomes more poignant. I remember the praise song "I could sing of Your love, forever." It is really true, nu?

So as I write- I've been cleaning the house, shopping and preparing for Passover. I began my day by enjoying the ultimate in Chumetz (leavened stuff) – Goldberg's Bagels. This would be my last fix of leavened bread before the eight

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day celebration. I really like Goldberg's bagels. They are the best and made right here in Pikesville. Part of the enjoyment is jostling with the people in line and kibitzing with workers behind the counter.

The owner waited on me today when he was interrupted to take a phone call. He left me there wondering if I would get my bagel. It was just like being in Israel. I remember going to the bank there with my dad in Rehovot, when the teller just began to eat pistachios and ignore us. After a while he started to wait on us. A coworker said something which ticked him off and they began arguing – right there in front of us. They went back and forth- oblivious to the growing line, and then after a while returned to wait on my dad. Just when we thought we'd get the check cashed, another co-worker made a remark similar to the first diversion and our teller was at it again. Eventually after a few more choice words, and a couple more pistachios, he finalized our business without any apology or even an acknowledgement and went on with his work.

Shopping in Goldberg's today was a little like that. It reminded me of how much we desire to see all Israel saved. Not that people wouldn't argue or eat pistachio nuts, but that they would have life that is only found in Messiah, and have it more abundantly. We continue to look for effective ways of reaching the Jewish people of our area in Pikesville, Owings Mills, and the surrounding communities!

Israel – Here we Come! June 18-30 2009
Start Saving Your Shekels for the Trip of a Lifetime

Speaking of Israel, we are busy making plans for our next group trip to Israel in the summer of 2009. Our dates are now set: We will be leaving June 18 and returning June 30

Many people have already begun saving money in anticipation of the pilgrimage of a lifetime. We will go where Yeshua walked, as well as where He is present today in the Israelis and Arabs who are establishing congregations in a united faith. We will see the important Biblical sights and visit with Believers in the Land. We expect our times of worship to be totally awesome, and our times of learning together to be full of revelation. The fellowship will be highlighted with new friends and soul mates from around the country. The food is terrific and we are planning a few very special surprises.

Again, mikveh (baptism) in the Jordan is on the schedule, as well as a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee and a visit to the Nazarene village, where we'll worship Messiah in the synagogue. For our stay in Jerusalem and celebrating communion at the Garden Tomb – you'll need your own words to describe these life changing experiences.

Terry Land plans to come and lead worship for this trip. Wow! We reunited for one Church Seder this year and being with Terry is such an uplifting experience.
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He is a worshipper and psalmist with a pure voice and spirit. He is an Israelite in whom there is no guile. We will all be blessed as we worship Yeshua together in Israel. I do hope that you will be planning to come with us.

Update on our friend, Martin

Martin Kaiser was with me for every Seder and then one he did on his own! Martin has been such a faithful helper for many years. Those of you who have met Martin or worked with him as he helps coordinate our activities often tell me what a gentle man he is and how he loves Messiah. Sadly, Martin's dad went on to glory this week. It's sad because of the close relationship he and Martin enjoyed the last few years. However, Martin is so grateful that his dad became a Believer and expressed many fruits of the Spirit prior to his passing. You may send encouragement to Martin through the reply envelope, and we'll pass them along.

Book on Planned Giving- from the Biblical Perspective

Shirley and I are almost done with the book on planned giving and effective ways to give, which I began last summer. Shirley has done a masterful job editing, (as she does with each newsletter). This book gives the Biblical basis for planning a gift in a Will or a Trust and really explores Paul's heart to bring an offering to "the saints in Jerusalem." That's my heart, too. I hope that by next month I can report that the book is done and ready to be reviewed, first by Dan Juster and the Tikkun oversight team, and then by you, my friends. General distribution should follow. Our vision is that this book will be a catalyst to help Believers in the Land- both Jewish and Arab.

Yeshua and the Holocaust

Next month I've been invited to speak at the New Life Christian School in Frederick, Maryland. I'll be there on Holocaust Remembrance Day, so I've been praying what to share. To many modern Jewish people the holocaust is the most important event in Jewish history. I have spoken at the infamous wall in Auschwitz in Poland and have been to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and Holocaust museums as well as memorials in many cities here in the US. I have attended many lectures on the Holocaust. In fact, my fourth grade teacher in Hebrew School, Mrs. Bandler, was a survivor. She often wore short sleeved dresses, so that we were certain to see her tattooed forearm with numbers which she wore with an awesome dignity. I think she displayed them as part of her teaching to us the reality of Jewish history. Yet, as significant as it was, I still believe that the most important happening in Jewish history was Yeshua.

Messianic Minutes Update

Messianic Minutes is going very well. The Religious Broadcasters selected James Kennedy for the best teaching show in 2007. We thank you for your prayers and maybe this year will be our year to win the nomination.

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You can listen to our show on-line at MessianicMinutes.com. Jeffrey D and I continue to record in Lancaster County, Pa, and to distribute the show on-air nationally.

I really enjoy it when you write to me, so if you get a chance, drop me a line. You are truly friends and I look forward to sharing and hearing from you.

Shalom in Messiah

Rabbi Ted

PS Please take the time to drop me or any member of the **Favor Zion** staff a note. Your participation with us is truly a fulfillment of prophesy.