

Favor Zion Ministries

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

June 2008
Iyar-Sivan 5768

Shalom Haveirim
Blessings to you-my friends:

Like Rabbi Saul, Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to Abba for Israel is that they may be saved!

At one of the first Passover Seders, which I led in a church this season, a retired woman brought her not –yet believing Jewish husband. While she has, of course, had a burden for his soul, her prayers have recently been more intense, because he has been diagnosed with a medically non-curable disease. I have visited them and also continue to pray for his salvation, because all of us are under an eternal death sentence- commuted only by Abba’s Grace and stayed by the applied Blood of Yeshua. Will you join me in prayer for this son of Israel’s salvation? Will you pray for me as I visit and share Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel, to this beloved of our Lord?

Messianic Minutes Update

This has been a joyful season of counting of the Omer- the time between Passover and Pentecost. Jeffrey D. Miller and I have wrapped up another season of **Messianic Minutes**. Presently we’re airing a few summer re-runs. With 14 years of the program “in the can”, we can pick some of our top shows and feel confident that the word of our G-d will not return void. You can now listen to our show on-line! For those of you who miss a show during the week, or who are in a part of the country where we are not yet on the air, just go to the archive section of www.MessianicMinutes.com where there is a nice collection of past and current shows. Check it out. And let me know what you think!

Also, if **Messianic Minutes** is not being aired on your local Christian radio station, you can ask the management there to go to our website to hear current shows and demos. As Jeffrey D. and I continue to see how effective the show is in educating the church and in helping Believers witness to Jewish people, we wholeheartedly desire to expand the reach of the show into new areas. Again, prayer is essential, and we are grateful for your support and prayers.

Tikkun

Last week I attended the Tikkun Leadership Advance in Lancaster, Pa. I was blessed to see old friends such as Paul Wilbur, Ron Cantor from Israel, Jerry

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Miller, Chad Holland, Todd Westphal, and many of the Messianic Rabbis with whom I fellowshiped over the years. I also got to speak with Raleigh Washington, Coach McCartney's right hand man from Promise Keepers, and now a lead partner in the Road to Jerusalem ministry.

Dan Juster and I also were able to touch base. I am really excited about giving Dan a copy of my new book: "PREPARE THE WAY, A Planned Giving Primer". Dan is a published author, and one whose opinion I value very highly.

Planned Giving Book

Shirley assures me that the book is now complete. My goal is for Dan to review it, offer constructive criticism, and then incorporate his help into the finished manuscript, which will then be published. My goal is that by the next newsletter I will be able to share with you, my Haveirim, a copy of the completed book for a minimum donation of \$25.00.

You all have stood by me during this whole writing process, which began almost one year ago! Sharing the book with you will be a way for you to receive tangible evidence of your faithfulness. I am so very grateful to you.

Pentecost & Salvation For All

Pentecost is one of my favorite Festivals. My joy is only a tad diminished in that the "Church" has yet to fully grasp the Hebraic underpinnings and prophetic significance.

Pentecost is the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot. It is one of the three pilgrimage Feasts of The Lord (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles) and was most certainly a festival Yeshua observed, although it is most often celebrated as " the birth of the church."

In Acts 2 it really shows how Jewish a time it really is. Initially all of the disciples are gathered together counting the days between Passover and Pentecost- the counting of the Omer. Their 50 days together had brought healing and peace, if not comfort from the hectic and seemingly perplexing days of Passover. They were in one accord, and that in itself was miraculous. It also was a place where Abba could pour out His blessing *"Behold how good and pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell in unity! For there the Lord commanded the blessing-Life evermore."* Psalm 133:1 &3b

Also, because it was a pilgrimage feast there was a huge influx of Orthodox Jews into Jerusalem- men of every tribe and nation. The place was jammed with Jewish people from all over the world, so when the sound of a mighty wind came, along with tongues of fire, there was assembled a ready audience for the signs of

these “unlearned fisherman” praising Adonai in foreign languages. Peter addressed this crowd as “men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem.”

Peter’s sermon, given in the power of the Ruach haKodesh, ends with two stunning statements. The first is Acts 2:38 – *“Repent and let every one of you be immersed in water in the name of Yeshua, the Messiah, for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

That is so cool, its obvious that the first “Pentecostals” were Jewish and that the good news was strategically delivered to an assembly of Orthodox Jews who would soon disperse it all over the world- bringing the reality of Jesus with them!

But that was only part of the story- for Peter continued his sermon in verse 39 stating: *“for the promise is to you and your children and to all afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call”*.

This is incredible news to all of us which was delivered first to the descendants of Abraham in the flesh, the children of Orthodox Jews who live throughout the world. But equally important to every person, for it is God’s will that none should perish, but all should come to everlasting life.

You Who Were Once Afar Off

Paul expands on Peter’s thought when writing to Believers in Ephesus, he uses the same phrase. In Ephesians 2: 12-17 Paul said, *“in Christ Jesus, you who were once afar off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* You who were once far off- you who were without eternal hope, you too can have the life of Jesus. Friends while it is my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel that they might be saved, we see clearly that God is no respecter of persons. He desires people of all backgrounds, nationalities, and ethnic groups to be saved.

We, like Peter and Paul, are not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation for whoever believes. Yes, it is for the Jew first, but yes too for the people of all nations. What a Festival to rejoice and be glad!

No wonder this is an exciting time to remember, celebrate and look toward future and complete fulfillment. Friends, you and I are part of this prophetic fulfillment. Wow!

The Feast of Pentecost also always includes the reading of the Book (Megillah) of Ruth. This is the ultimate of Jew and Gentile coming together. This is a picture of what happens when there is unity amongst the brethren from different tribes and nations. For the union of the Moabites, Ruth, and the Orthodox Jew, Boaz, leads directly to the blessing of King David and ultimately to Mary, Joseph and Jesus, himself!

Well, the end of Pentecost really is the beginning of summer and the Biblical calendar marks time until the fall Feasts of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles. It is a time of growth and reflection.

A caution- it is not a time to grow complacent. It was during this interlude that both Temples were destroyed and many nasty events befell our people. So it is a time to be watchful and vigilant; to be prayerful and to go forth in the power of His Spirit.

I am also reminded that the weekly celebration of the Shabbat is particularly sweet in the summer months and I commend a day of purposeful "rest" and reflection each week.

Trip to Israel- Get Ready- June 2009

We are also officially announcing our June 2009 trip to Israel with the flier listing our schedule included in this newsletter. Yes, it's a long way off- but not too soon to begin saving your shekels. I've been told that just the airfare and air taxes are going to be more this trip- so it will be wise to begin preparing and praying, now. We will have an official price by late July.

It's going to be a blessed trip-the trip of a lifetime. I really want you to consider joining us. There's been tremendous interest in our Israel trips because we do limit the size of the group to a really workable number that doesn't get bogged down too much at gift shops and restaurants. I plan to share pertinent teaching both at important places along the route, and on the bus. Terry Land is scheduled to lead us in worship, and I am praying for other special assistants to be available for prayer and helping to pastor you in The Land.

Certainly we will meet with Emissaries and worship with Israeli and Arab Believers. We will see the sights and visit the places where Jesus walked and see where His presence is evident today in a modern fulfillment of Pentecost.

Simon Family Updates

Diane has entered her senior year at the Schuler School of Fine Art. Her work has already been selling very well and she rejoices that Abba has given her heart's desire to use the talents he's given her in a way pleasing to Him. Diane does classical realism- no modern abstracts, but there's an infusion of the Spirit, for those with eyes to see. The result is technical excellence and a perspective which glorifies God.

Jenna has graduated from Goucher College and will be in New York this summer with a scholarship from Alvin Alley Company. She is wrapping up a year of teaching to Orthodox Jewish girls in the Owings Mills/Pikesville area.

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Amanda has enrolled in the MBA program through the University of Maryland and begins classes in the fall. She has really taken to being an Aunt to Keira, Pascha and Dan's daughter, who loves her.

Pascha continues to be a med/surgical nurse at Shady Grove Hospital and a full-time mommy. She also teaches lyrical dance at Mid-Maryland Performing Arts, and at Redeemer Church in Frederick. Dan has been doing a little more acting (commercials and a low-budget movie) and works full time doing technical computer stuff. He also is my webmaster at: www.FavorZion.org

Rachael and Eric have been up north this spring as Eric has been working and photographing the primary campaign. I am so delighted to see their faith and their Messianic scholarship.

Keep Praying

As I mentioned this is a good time to continue to pray. In the world there is great uncertainty, and danger. While we continue to receive reports of salvations and growth from Israel, we also know that the Messianic community there has come under more scrutiny and persecution. On the home front, we continue to ask for more open doors to share the Favor Zion message with all people. We look for more open doors in various churches, so that more denominations can regain these Biblical Truths. We pray for the opportunity to speak in individual congregations and at Denominational Conferences.

We are Here to Serve

Let us know if there are ways we can pray for you. I really do want to hear from you, pray for you, and be of practical help, where I am able. I have been blessed to meet unsaved loved ones and to offer counsel where appropriate. I really do value your support, and want to be kind and helpful to you.

Please let me know. I am really here to serve.

In Yeshua's Service,

Rabbi Ted

PS. Thank you for your financial support and referrals and prayers!

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