



May 2016

Dear brothers and sisters in Messiah,

Shalom! שלום

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith Jehovah of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

זְכַרְיָה 4:6 "וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֶל-זְרֻבְבָּל לֵאמֹר לֹא בִמְחִיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי אֶמֶר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

Irene and I send our warm love and greetings to you all. As we write our May newsletter, we reflect on the Lord's help and guidance this past month. The Lord is Good!

On April the 22nd our Jewish people worldwide, prepared to celebrate the feast of Passover – **PESACH**, recalling this amazing event of redemption, in which God delivered our people Israel from bondage and slavery. This historical event is recorded in Exodus chapter 12, and in verse 27 we read: **It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt.** God gave clear instructions as to how Israel could be spared from judgment; a lamb must be chosen, then killed, and its blood was to be placed on the doorposts and lintels of the Hebrews' homes. God then promised, **When I see the blood, I will pass over you.** What comforting words for the people of Israel, assuring them of redemption by blood, and clearly pointing to the value of the blood of the Messiah Jesus – **Yeshua**. He was the perfect Lamb of God who came to this world to accomplish redemption, taking away the Sin of the world.

In our outreach ministry of Holy Scriptures and Israel, we had the privilege to hold a special Messiah in the Passover meeting. We had a good turnout with approximately 140 people attending, and we were happy to have a number of unsaved Jewish people join us. The gospel was presented from Exodus 12, the message pointing to the person of Jesus - **Yeshua** the Passover Lamb. **For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us:** 1 Corinthians 5:7b: We reflected over the 3500 year-old feast of Passover which our people have celebrated. In Hebrew this feast is called **PESACH**, this word **PESACH** or **PASACH** comes from a Hebrew root word meaning to Hover-Over. God in grace, hovered-over the houses of our forefathers the Hebrews, sparing them from judgment because of the blood of the lamb. How wonderful to know that Passover clearly points to our Lord Jesus the Messiah, who suffered on our behalf.

We were so thankful to see a good number of Jewish people attend this special day. Heather, who previously had brought Saphta, the 92 year-old holocaust survivor to our Saturday meeting, invited Saphta to the Messiah in the Passover meeting and Saphta happily accepted.

Here is what Heather had to say regarding that day. Our Messiah in the Passover meeting was truly a blessing. Saphta once again was touched in her heart as she was there with us. She seemed to be more comfortable and at rest this time, being among believers in Jesus - **Yeshua** the Messiah. As Gideon went through the items, prayers and Passover stories, she echoed him in a quiet voice, she went along word by word with him and was nodding her head. When the young girl Hannah sang the four questions of the Passover story in Hebrew, I could hear Saphta cheerfully singing along. It was touching for Saphta to be there, at the familiar feast that she knew so well. She was in awe when she heard us sing praises to **Yeshua** the Messiah. Saphta is now more intrigued then before when the Bible is opened. As she looked upon the pages, she voiced to me these words, you are a better Jew then me. I said to her, **Yeshua** - Jesus came for the purpose to die for you and for me. He was that Passover Lamb who came for both of us, Saphta nods in agreement with that. She loves coming to these meetings. She loves to hear and see the familiar things and words of her own people. She knows that Jesus Himself is known and exalted in this place and in the hearts of these ones. She loved Gideon and kept asking me is he the rabbi? This is the same lady who some months ago requested, Please don't bring me anymore papers about **Yeshua**. At the end of the Passover Seder Saphta was gathering the order sheets of the service as she treasured them. She asked for multiple copies to take with her as well as the booklet of songs. Saphta wanted one for her son and some to give to her Jewish friends and neighbors. Heather also writes about her son who attended the meeting - My unsaved son was also there and served this lady with love and kindness and he too enjoyed being there for the meeting. They both stuck close together, both had this one thing in common, they are not quite sure about Jesus the Messiah; they are almost persuaded, but not yet saved.

Lord willing, we plan on making a visit soon with Saphta at her home. I trust that the Lord will use this visit to help Saphta understand who **Yeshua** is. In speaking with our people we seek to share **Yeshua** from the Old Testament - the Tanach. We Jews are usually not inclined to open the New Testament. It took me a long time, some 40 years ago, to be willing to even open and read the New Testament. Like our Lord **Yeshua**, we too share with our people the gospel first of all from the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures. Our Lord Jesus said in John 5:39: **Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they, which testify of me.** When He was here on earth, **Yeshua** pointed to himself and to His Messiahship when He read in the Nazareth synagogue from the 61st chapter of Isaiah saying, **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.** We believe that God is able to use His word by His Spirit to open the hearts of our Jewish people and bring them to know **Yeshua** as their Lord, Savior and Messiah. May He open many hearts while we are in these days of grace.

Last Saturday at our Holy Scriptures and Israel meeting, we concluded our study in the 1st book of Timothy. What a blessing this study was to all of us. Timothy's name was added to a list of faithful godly men of whom we read that they were men of God. Our desire is for the Lord's daily grace as we seek to follow our Lord Jesus.

We thank the Lord for various contacts that we receive through our bible teaching radio ministry. We are blessed to have this open door and the many opportunities to reach those who seek to know of Jesus the Savior. Believers, who are hungry for spiritual food, enjoy the word of God through the daily bible teachings. We are thankful to the Lord for those of you who assist us in this ministry through prayers and financial support. Your participation in this ministry is much appreciated. In regards to Irene's health, her rheumatoid arthritis has affected her daily activities. At this point in time Irene is not able to walk or move as before. We trust the Lord in this entirely new situation in our lives, and we pray for the Lord's will and guidance to be done. We also are looking for ways in which Irene can be helped and get better. Your prayers for Irene are appreciated.

Please pray for:

- Irene's health situation.
- Holy Scriptures and Israel's weekly meetings.
- Holy Scriptures and Israel radio programs.
- Our visits with those who have interest in the gospel.
- Believers who are in a need of encouragement.
- Our upcoming visit with Saphta.
- Jewish individuals who seek to know who Jesus-**Yeshua** is.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Psalm 122:6

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." Isaiah 62:1

God bless you.

In Messiah, Gideon and Irene