



June 2017

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 "וַיֹּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֶל־זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בִמְחִיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם־בְּרוּחִי אֶמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

We were thankful to the Lord for allowing us to gather together for our belated Messiah in the Passover presentation on Saturday – Shabbat the 20th of May. For those of us who are believers, it is so edifying to open the Scriptures and see our Messiah in the Passover, as we seek to help our unbelieving Jewish brethren understand from the Word of God who Jesus is. Although we gathered for this occasion one month later than the actual biblical date of the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, we knew very well in our hearts that we were not late at all, not even for one moment, because we preached the gospel of our Lord *Yeshua* the Messiah, the Passover Lamb. One is never late by peaching the Word of God, as Shaul – Paul, encouraged the younger brother Timothy by saying, **Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season.** 2 Timothy 4:2a. We presented the biblical fact that God the Son became a man in order to become the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. He died on a Roman cross, He shed His precious blood, in order that God will pass over all those who trust in Him. Speaking of His shed blood, God said, **when I see the blood, I will pass over you.** Exodus 12:13b. The apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians of this in 1 Corinthians 5:7b by saying, **Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us.**

We had the privilege to host Jewish guests, who as yet, do not know *Yeshua* as their Messiah, Lord and Savior. Other guests appreciated to learn the practices held during the Passover celebrations and how they clearly point to the person of Jesus the Messiah. It was encouraging

to hear the many conversations about the Lord that were going on around the tables. I had a conversation with a dear, elderly Jewish woman who had questions as to why, we who are Jewish, believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Often, there is a strong resistance by our people to accept the clear biblical teachings concerning the person of *Yeshua* – Jesus. This resistance by



many of our brethren, is there for several reasons, foremost is the natural resistance of all of us towards God because of our sin nature. In addition to this, our Rabbis have taught us that *Yeshua* – Jesus is not for us Jews, and that He is only for the gentiles. This wrong instruction has kept us at a distance from the amazing person of our Lord *Yeshua*, the Messiah. But, on the basis of the Word of God, we know that He IS and always will BE the one and only true Messiah. The early Hebrew believers understood this fact by divine revelation. In Mathew 16:16 we read of the response of

Peter to *Yeshua*, and Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Messiah, the Son of the living God.** Also, Nathaniel, amazed at how *Yeshua* knew of him, said in John 1:49. **Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.** So we are thankful to God, and we are confident that He, through His Holy Spirit is able to open the hearts of all men, including the heart of this elderly Jewish woman, who needs *Yeshua* the Savior, in her heart.

Recently, at our Holy Scriptures and Israel weekly meeting, we were impressed by a dear visiting brother with the need to distribute the Hebrew Scriptures among our Jewish people in Toronto. The Society for Distributing the Holy Scriptures to the Jews was founded in 1940, in the midst of bombing in the city of London, England. As Hitler sought to exterminate European Jewry, Yoelson-Taffen, a Hebrew Christian, was



deeply burdened for the salvation of his people, and the need to provide them with the New Covenant – New Testament and specifically bilingual Hebrew-English. As an evangelist among the Jewish people he realized how difficult it was for them to pick up and read a foreign book such as the New Testament. The Lord kept bringing the verse in Zephaniah 3:9 before him, **For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.** Taffen realized that if the New Covenants were in the Hebrew language, they were more likely to be accepted. The New Covenants were later also printed in Hebrew-French and in German, today they are available in many languages. The Lord has used these scriptures worldwide, to reach out to many of our people, leading some of them to faith in *Yeshua* the Messiah. I would like to add, that I personally received one of these Hebrew-English New Testaments when I first came to Canada. I received it from a dear brother, Jacob Pankratz, who had a great love for the Jewish people and served for many years with the Toronto Mission to the Jews. Jacob has since gone to be with the Lord, but I remember, what it felt like to read the New Covenant scriptures in my own Hebrew language. We thank the Lord for those whom God has raised to serve in the distribution of the Hebrew Scriptures. As the message was shared, we were encouraged from the Scriptures not to be ashamed of the gospel of Messiah, and to be willing to share the Word of God with all, including our Jewish brethren. The passage we read was taken from Romans 1:16. **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.** [Click here to listen.](#)

Some of the brothers and sisters from our fellowship went out to distribute the Hebrew Scriptures door to door in Jewish neighborhoods in the city of Toronto. Copies of the Word of

God, both Old and New Covenant were received by some. Our group also gave out other appropriate booklets as well as invitations to come to our Holy Scriptures and Israel outreach meetings in Toronto. It was encouraging to know that some of the believers who went out are Jewish brothers and sisters. We trust and pray that the Lord will use this outreach ministry to bring Jewish people to the knowledge of their Messiah. Irene and I remember when we first



began the outreach among our people back in 1984, we started with the distribution of Bibles to Jewish communities in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, together with our brothers Alfred Bouter and John Van Stormbroek. We inserted a letter of thanks to the Jewish people in each copy of the Bible that we sent out. The letter included these words. **It is through the people of Israel that the Holy Scriptures have entered this world, both the Tenach as well as what is meant by the New Covenant. Through these scriptures many non-Jews have**

come to know the God of Israel. As a result, people in all corners of the world have benefited from God's use of this nation. Wherever these Scriptures arrived, and faith in their message was shown, a change of heart became evident. It is unfortunate that although the content of these volumes has contributed greatly to mankind's wellbeing, many people are still not or not sufficiently familiar with them. Out of thankfulness to God and in gratitude to the Jewish nation, we are offering every Jewish family a free copy of the Holy Bible. There is no cost whatsoever and no obligation to buy anything, now or in the future. Perhaps you may already own a Tenach in the English language. If you value one in Hebrew, we should be pleased to send you one. If you would like to have the complete Bible in Hebrew in a small and handy format, you may indicate this to us. We have bilingual New Testaments available as well: Hebrew-English, Hebrew-French, or in other languages. We trusted that the Lord, by His Spirit, would use these scriptures. The verse that was prominent before us was Zechariah 4:6. **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. We are confident that God has used the many copies that were sent over the years to touch the hearts of many. The Word of God will not return unto Him void.**

On the last day of May, I was privileged to officiate at the funeral of the dear mother of our friend Tony. Among those who attended the service, there were some Jewish individuals, those of Roman Catholic background, and others who did not know the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. It was my privilege to present the gospel to those present. We read from the book of Ecclesiastics 7:3, words of wisdom from King Solomon, written to Israel in the latter days of his life, pointing to the truth that, **it is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.** How true these words are, those who are still alive can clearly see the reality of death, and hopefully they take it to heart and turn their hearts to God. It was good to know that the mother of Tony belongs to our Lord *Yeshua*. She is now absent from the body and present with her Lord.

As to our radio and audio outreach programs, we are thankful to the Lord for the many open doors that He has set before us, and we continue to look to Him for further direction. We were very encouraged by the recent monthly report that we received from the Sermon Audio website, where since May we have been posting the Bible teaching programs of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. The report provides info on the geographic areas of listeners to the Holy Scriptures and Israel messages. We learned that in addition to the many who listen in Ontario, we have a listening audience in 35 states in the USA and 27 countries worldwide. We were thankful to learn that some of the people who



listen to our programs are in Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Indonesia. We have provided a chart for you with the information. One never knows who is listening to the ministry of the Word of God. It is a blessing to be able to reach out to so many people, far and wide, through the radio and the internet. All need the Lord, Jews and Gentiles alike need to hear the gospel of the Grace of God. Often, we are unaware of the hunger in the hearts of so many people for spiritual food. People need the Lord! It is unfortunate that many are looking for satisfaction in all the wrong places, not realizing that it can only be found in the person of our Messiah - Jesus, the Son of God who invites all men to come unto Him. **Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.** Isaiah 55:1.

Dear brothers and sisters, we wish to thank you for your love, prayers and support of Irene and me in the ministry among the Jewish people.

Please pray:

- The Holy Scriptures and Israel radio program.
- The ones who listen to our program thru Sermon Audio.
- The weekly Bible classes and Saturday – Shabbat meetings.
- The distributions of the word of God to the Jewish community in Toronto.
- The continued improvement in Irene's and my health.
- **Pray for 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



Please pray for Israel to open their hearts and see Yeshua our Messiah who said, "I am the light of the world." John 8:12

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The Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible Society

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