



February 2018

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־זְרֻבְבָל לֵאמֹר לֹא בִמְחִיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם־בְּרוּחִי אֶמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

We thank the Lord for who He is, and for what he allows each of us to experience in our lives. It is well for us to rest on the sure Word of God which says, **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.** Romans 8:28. God has a plan and a purpose for each of us and we can be assured of His love and grace. As I am writing our newsletter for February, I find myself unexpectedly in a little town in the north part of Japan, called Otaru. One might ask what brought me to Japan. Well, Yoav, our middle son had a serious accident while snowboarding in the area. On his way for a 3 week work trip, he and his colleagues took some time to go snowboarding. The Lord allowed Yoav to hit a tree, breaking the femur bone of his left leg. He underwent surgery the following day, and although he is still in a lot of pain, we thank the Lord that the surgery went well and for His mercy in sparing his life. We pray that the Lord will use this situation for His glory and the good of Yoav. Life can change for us in a moment, the Lord is speaking and we need to hear His voice, the saying which we often use, **man proposes but God disposes**, is taken from the words of king Solomon to Israel, found in Proverbs 19:21. There are many (thoughts) devices in a man's heart, nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. May we will listen to the counsel of God for our life.

As soon as I could, I made the long journey to Japan to be with Yoav and to bring him back home when he will be discharged. I arrived safely to the hospital in Otaru, Japan, with the help

of the Lord and dear brother Robert Robertson and his wife Akiko, who stayed in touch with me all along the way through e-mails, texting and Skype calls. Some of you may remember Robbie and Akiko, who years ago attended our Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible classes and ministry meetings in Toronto for a while, before returning back to Japan to be involved in missionary work among the Japanese. They have a heart for the Lord and the Jewish people and love to share the gospel message of the Lord Jesus the Messiah with the people in Japan. When Robbie and Akiko heard of the situation with Yoav they did all they could to be of assistance, calling the hospital, checking train schedules, translating etc., and keeping in touch with me during the whole long journey. We really felt how the Lord uses his saints to be a blessing and encouragement to each other. In the photos we can see Robert, Akiko and their daughter Hannah, before and after pictures, time is sure passing by. We thank the Lord as I am now in the hospital room with Yoav. We are waiting to

hear from the medical team when it will be possible for him to return to Canada. We value your continued prayers.



I asked brother Robert to tell me a little about his ministry here in Japan and of any Jewish connection to this country. This is what brother Robert shared: *I was talking to Brother Gideon on Skype about our ministry in Japan, a country of just over 127 million people where 1-2 percent claim to be Christians. Half of the population claim to be atheist, while the remainder claims to be Buddhist, Shinto, or new religions. As an outreach of our local assembly, we seek to share the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ with the Japanese people, specifically through visitation and contact with those who are physically and mentally challenged, the elderly and children. By the grace of God and Favour we are registered as foster parents in Ishikawa Prefecture and as mental health group support volunteers in Hakusan City, Ishikawa Prefecture. Our local church - assembly has about 19 attendees, but for 12 of them it is their home assembly. Please pray for Mr. Fukuda, who comes to church meetings every week, but says that he can not become a believer in Christ because he feels he would deny Him when his faith is tested. There are few Jews*



living in Japan these days, but during World War II, a Japanese Consul-General, Chiune Sugihara, is credited with arranging for more than 6000 Jews to be allowed to pass through Japan to freedom from the Holocaust. This is the second largest number of Jews to be saved from the Nazis during that time. We thank the Lord for the service of Robert and Akiko in Japan, you can find detailed information about the Japanese Consul-General, Chiune Sugihara, on the [Jewish virtual library website](#).



While here in Japan, we found that we have a hard time communicating, as most do not speak English, but thankfully, we manage to understand each other through the use of google translate on our phones. I was so blessed to find out that one of the ladies who works in the hospital by the named of Kayoko is a believer in the Lord Jesus. It was so good to speak with Kayoko about the Lord *Yeshua* and connect her with Robert and his wife Akiko. What a joy it is to connect with others who are part of the family of God, especially since there are so few believers in Japan. Kayoko showed much interest in the Lord Jesus, the Bible, in Israel, and the ministry among our Jewish

people. I took a picture with her so you can pray for her as well.

As to the Holy Scriptures and Israel radio ministry, there is much for which to be thankful. We praise the Lord that we are now airing on Trans World Radio's [TWR360 website](#). Additional messages are regularly added to all three of the outreach sites including TWR360, [OnePlace](#), and [SermonAudio](#). We receive good responses from the websites. While local radio stations are geared to be a blessing to local listeners, these Bible teaching sites are geared to reach out to people all around the world. Listeners can just log onto any of these websites and listen to Bible teaching in their own countries. What encourages our hearts is that people from Muslim countries such as Saudi-Arabia, Iraq and Indonesia have just this month downloaded content from our ministry's page.



People need the Lord, they need to hear and understand the simple message of the gospel. While today men sharpen their swords in preparation for wars, we who are believers in the Lord *Yeshua*, need to sharpen our hearts and minds in the preparation of sharing the gospel of peace, sharing with many the message of love and grace which brings Shalom. The Lord Jesus is the one and only person who can bring Peace to the heart of each individual who will trust in Him and His atoning work on the tree. The Lord promised that His word will not return unto Him void. Praise God that eventually He will bring a true Peace, true Shalom, to this sad world, as Isaiah declared to Israel concerning the coming Messiah, calling Him SAR - SHALOM, the PRINCE OF PEACE. Isaiah 9:6b. Isaiah continues, **Of the increase of his government and peace, Shalom, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.** Isaiah 9:7. We appreciate your prayers for us dear brothers and sisters, as the Lord is allowing us to learn some new lessons through this situation. We can truly say that the Lord is sovereign. He is good and we are thankful to be part of a redeemed people. We are encouraged by these words spoken long ago by Moses to Israel and are also quoted by the Apostle who wrote the letter to the Hebrews. **Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.** Deuteronomy 31:62

Please pray for:

- Our son Yoav and his recovery.
- Our safe travel back from Japan to Canada.
- Robert, Akiko and Hannah their daughter, and their ministry in Japan.
- The Japanese believers and Kayoko the believing sister in the hospital.
- The outreach of Holy Scriptures and Israel radio program and ministry meetings.
- **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,

Aileen & 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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