



May 2023

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 6:4 "וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֶל-זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בְחֵיל וְלֹא בְכֹחַ כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי אֶמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

It was a blessing for Irene and me to be together with the believers who came to our Holy Scriptures and Israel outreach in-person meeting, including some of our Jewish friends, who we love, and long to see them come to trust in the person of our Lord Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah. It was good to have a time of caring and sharing, as well as a time to pray for one another. Our on-going vision is to reach out to our Jewish people with a clear message of the gospel, as it is presented from a first century, Hebrew - Messianic perspective. We have confidence in our God, who is working through His Holy Spirit, in the hearts of hearers.

The subject of our message in our meeting was the godly attitude and behaviour of a man named Epaphroditus, of whom Paul wrote, **Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.** Philippians 2:25. This dear brother was such a blessing to the apostle Paul, his name means lovely, or charming, in the Greek language. In his conduct, Epaphroditus exhibits the characteristics of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, who is the loveliest person who ever walked upon the face of this earth. If you are interested to listen to the message, [use this link](#) (passcode 0Pv4^A3Y). While in Toronto, Irene and I were privileged to be with the brethren at the Willowdale assembly, for the remembrance meeting, and for a time of ministry from the word of God. It was a blessing to be once again with the brethren in Toronto and enjoy a time of fellowship with them.



Irene and I also had the opportunity to visit some of the believers, who over the years were part of the outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. We visited dear Patricia and David Ratherford, whom we have mentioned in previous newsletters. Patricia and David have been an encouragement to us and our outreach to the Jewish people for more than twenty-five years. Over the many years we have witnessed their love for the Lord Jesus, their faithfulness to His word, and their desire for the Jewish people to come to know who Yeshua the Messiah is. Presently, our brother David is not feeling so well and sister Patricia has been under-going treatment for cancer. On their most recent visit with the oncologist, Patricia was informed that she has only three months, and just now as we write this newsletter, we received a call from David, informing us that Patricia was taken to a Palliative care in the Baycrest hospital in Toronto.

As we pray for Patricia and David, as well as others who are facing challenges, we realize that our lives are in the hands of the Lord. King David wrote in Psalm 31:15, **My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.** Our God is the One who gives and takes life, speaking through Moses to Israel, God said of Himself. **See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.** Deuteronomy 32:39. We know that Patricia has put her trust in the Lord Jesus, and she is safe and secure in His love for her. We do ask that you continue to keep Patricia and David in your prayers, for comfort and strength, as they pass through this difficult time.



We thank God for His grace, and His help with the completion of the video series on the study of the book of Ephesians. In this letter to the Ephesians, it was so refreshing to learn of the riches the believer has in Christ. Paul wrote in chapter 1:3, **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.** The study on the book of Ephesians has been added to our Youtube channel, you may [use this link](#) to view any of the

messages on Ephesians. Please continue to pray that the Lord will use these zoom and in-person Bible classes for the benefit of all who listen to them, and that as they visit the Holy Scriptures and Israel channel they would be encouraged in the Lord. We are so appreciative of every one who attend these meetings. Presently, in our weekly Bible classes, we are studying the books of Romans, Hebrews and Esther. To join the weekly bible studies please [e-mail us here](#).

Weekly Bible Teachings



Just recently, I had the privilege to share a message from the word of God, via Google Meet, with the brethren from the assembly in Tenali, in India. Our dear brethren invited me to share a message from the word of God, for encouragement of the brethren in their local assembly. The subject was taken from John 15:1-11, where the Lord Jesus the Messiah spoke of Himself saying, **I Am The True Vine**. John 15:1a. This statement was spoken by the Lord, as He was on His way from the upper room, which was on Mount Moriah, to the Mount of Olives, where the Garden of Gethsemane, known as the garden of the oil-press. With love for His disciples, the Lord encouraged His people to abide in Him, saying; **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.** John 15:4. What a challenge this was for them, as it is for us today. Our prayer is, that the Lord will give the needed grace and encourage the believers in India and us as well, to abide close to our Lord. Jesus the Messiah is the True Vine, and all who trust in Him are His branches. May He help us to bear fruit for the glory of God, in this sad and troublesome world.

For those of you who have inquired concerning our upcoming tours; yes, our April Israel tour has been moved to July, in order to accommodate those who had timing conflicts because of school etc. Time is moving swiftly, and God willing, we will be leading our Holy Scriptures and Israel annual tour to Israel from July 8 -18, 2023. We are looking forward to having a blessed time with our group, as we journey throughout the land of Israel. We will be visiting various biblical sites, Bibles in hand, as we experience the history of Israel, and together, learn from the Word of God.

Also, God willing, Irene and I are scheduled to lead another Bible teaching tour to Greece and Turkey, in the footsteps of the apostle Paul. We will be visiting the various Biblical locations in Greece and Turkey where the apostle Paul ministered the gospel. The tour is scheduled to take place on October 19-30, 2023. Should you wish to receive further information on these upcoming tours, please [connect with us by e-mail](#), or go directly to the [website of the Holy Scriptures and Israel](#) for tour information.



Please pray for us, that the Lord Jesus our Messiah, will give us the needed daily grace and strength, that we may continue to faithfully serve Him. Thank you dear brethren for remembering us in your prayers. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.** James 5:16b.

Please pray for:

- The needs of Patricia Ratherford, now in Palliative care.
- The needs of grace for David Ratherford.
- The brethren of the assemblies in India.
- The brethren of the outreach ministry.
- The Jewish individuals who are still without Jesus the Messiah.
- The radio and video outreach ministry.
- The weekly Zoom Bible classes.
- The health needs of Irene and Gideon.
- **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,

G. Leon & 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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