

The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.
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Ministry Updates and Events

Shalom friends,

The call came in on the evening of January 24th, "Come Joe. You said you wanted to come see me... it's time," my mother's voice said weakly on the message. Since Dawn was already in Newark and had a day off, she was able to go to her immediately for a day. She got her some carrot soup from her favorite cafe, Forty Carrots, in the mall next door and spent the day with her. On Sunday, the 27th, the boys and I boarded a flight to Boston. We arrived in the early evening and immediately drove to see Mom. We hugged and she marveled at the way her grandsons had grown. It was just good to be together. We were only going to stay a short while that night, but minutes turned to hours and Mom stayed up past nine-pm; no supper for three hungry guys but it was good to see her.



She slept a lot in the chair while we were there for those four days, but she would have moments of alertness where she talked to each of us in private and as a family. She would play a card game called "Kings" with my sons and she always won, all the while delivering the punch lines of her favorite jokes! It was now Wednesday night and my boys had finagled two Celtics tickets and an Uber ride to the game. Then as quickly as we arrived it was time to say goodbye. Dawn and I gave Mom a kiss and she spoke her last words to us as we left to pack for the trip back to Tennessee early the next morning. Two days later I was awakened from a nap after preaching at our Shabbat service. I didn't need an explanation; I knew from my little Josh's tone exclaiming, "Dad, call Mom, it's important!" ... my Mom was gone.

So we got back on the computer to search for the best flights, hotel rates, and car-rental prices we

could find. Everyone in Boston had to wait for me as I was co-officiating my mother's funeral. I say this not to boast, but because it is difficult for me to travel. Arthritis in my back makes it painful to sit on a plane all 6'3" and 255lbs. of me. With prayer and some rest we made our way back home to Boston on Tuesday, February 5th. The funeral would be held that Wednesday. As it turned out, it was a bright sunny, mild winter day for Boston, but still a warm enough day to be buried. Mom had told me she didn't want to go in the winter.

People thought she was being thoughtful about others, but I think she didn't want to have her funeral on a cold, snowy day. You'd have to know her. The Rabbi from her synagogue was amazed how many people were at the funeral of a 92 year old -- at least a hundred! Mom was a star in her world. There were dozens of grandchildren, great grandchildren, cousins, friends, admirers, and her four kiddos. I was honored to deliver the eulogy.

We came back home to a week of unrelenting rains and cold in TN and throughout a large part of the state. I preached on Saturday, the 16th, only to receive a call after service that our fellowship hall was under water. We had just spent \$10,000 water-proofing and restoring the hall from late summer flooding back in September. This time the water didn't come down the hill and thru cracks in the wall; this time it bubbled up from the overly saturated ground! I was in disbelief! All of our water proofing measures *had been* holding fine. We had built a French Drain, sealed the block walls, rebuilt the interior, painted the walls, and laid new carpet. We had experienced numerous heavy rains after those repairs and all had been fine! I had just paid the final bill for the carpet the day before and we were planning to rededicate the hall with a lunch the following Shabbat. It was not to be... I just said, "**The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord!**" I was utterly helpless and at His mercy. I took it well, but then came the calls to the insurance company (funny how they cover hurricane damage, but not massive rains). Then I called Paul Davis Restoration; they came out and began the week long process of drying out the hall, but we had to wait

several days for them to finish, due to so much flood damage in this area. We have yet to determine the next step to getting our fellowship hall back in working order, but we pray for God's provision and blessing as we forge ahead and continue the work here.

The Feast of Purim (Esther) is coming up the third week of March. God had given me a newsletter for you, "*Queen Esther in Biblical Prophecy: Saving the Jews From certain death Once Again*". Unfortunately, I have not had the time, strength, or will to write it out this month. I know you will understand. *February was a tough month*. I invite you to come out to our synagogue on Thursday, March 21st, as we celebrate Purim and I teach what I was going to write to you.

Service starts at 7:00 PM with refreshments and coffee to follow. I also invite you to our annual Passover Seder banquet to be held on April 20th at 6:00 PM with seating starting at 5:30 PM. Bring your Bible Study group or your Sunday school class and see Christ in the Passover come to life before your eyes. Bring your Jewish friends too!

I will be back with a teaching letter soon. Thank you for your many cards, e-mails and condolences. Dawn and I love you all. Thank you for your prayers and to those of you who contributed while we endured the month. May God bless you and grant you the desires of your hearts as you take delight in Him... *Psalm 37*.

One thing I have learned through it all it that I needed to be reminded to cling to Him and to wait on His deliverance. He always comes through.

Shalom,
Rabbi Joe and Dawn



Harriet Bell 1926 — 2019

Special In Uniform

Most of you know that we raise money for the needy in Israel at our Passover banquet and other events. The *Joseph Project* has been our focus for many years, but that work with much thanks to you, is doing well, and the Lord has directed us to find another important need in Israel to support. So this year I want to tell you about "*Special in Uniform*", a charity in Israel that you may never hear about except through us.

Dawn and I were introduced to this wonderful ministry on our 2017 trip to Israel, and ever since it has been on our hearts to spread the news about what this ministry does and to help them. The *Special in Uniform* program takes place on IDF (*Israel Defense Force*) military bases around Israel. Our friend from the Knesset asked his contact, Colonel Tiran, to pick us up one morning and take us to an IDF base to see what they do. Once there, we met about twenty or thirty young Israelis of military age who suffered from Autism, Down Syndrome, and other disabilities. These young people are left behind by their peers who are without disabilities and are all required to join the military. Thanks to "*Special in Uniform*" these young adults with, special needs, are now issued IDF uniforms and transported to one of ten IDF bases every day to serve. They are assigned important jobs that other soldiers don't have



er soldiers don't have time for, like taking precious metals out of computers and electronics, or assembling gas masks into bags. These young people are paid, and they get the chance to serve their country and develop a sense of independence, purpose and self-confidence that they otherwise may not gain.

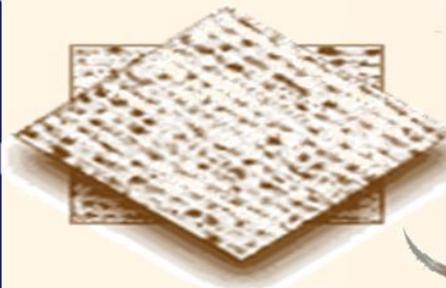
When we arrived at the base and met some of them, they hugged us and loved on us. They shared the joy and hope they had for their future through the unique program of *Special in Uniform*. Some who were able to make it through the whole program could be officially inducted into the military. We could see the excitement in their eyes as they explained the opportunities before them. We were so deeply touched. As I said, "*Special in Uniform*" is a charity, and is not funded by the IDF; it is supported only by folks like you and me. We also noted that the kids we met were working in old dilapidated buildings that needed repair and were full of asbestos. It



For Zion's Sake Ministries Presents

Messianic Passover Banquet

*Saturday, April 20, 2019
at 6:00 pm
(seating begins at 5:30)*



Featuring

Rabbi Joseph Bell

and

Benot Tzion Dance Ministry

Love Offering to Benefit
Our Israel Fund for the
"Special in Uniform" program:
Helping youth with special needs
to serve in the IDF and gain
useful employment skills that will
carry them through life

Held at:
New Life Baptist Church
1000 Hendrickson Lane
Bluff City, TN 37618

Register on line now at
forzionsake.org
Or mail in form with payment
Or call 276-644-1678

\$30.00 /Adults
\$17.00/ children (6-12 yrs)
Free / children 5 & under
\$220.00 / table (\$20 discount for 8 seats)
Includes Dinner & Seder Plate

broke our hearts to see this. So we hope you will join us in supporting these beautiful young Israelis as we focus our efforts to raise funds for “*Special in Uniform*” .

Usually, I hit the pavement in the month or so before Passover to raise a few thousand dollars to sponsor the Passover event, but with Mom passing , our recent flood, and low blood counts affecting my health, I’m just not up to it. So I’m asking those of you who love Israel, who believe in the good work we do, and have seen the fruit of our ministry, to step up and help sponsor our 2019 Passover Benefit for Israel. We need to raise sponsorship of \$3,000 to cover expenses including the catering staff service charge, the dancers honorarium, the sound company and their equipment, as well as, security, advertising, and decorations. All these things cost money over and above the advertised ticket price, which only covers food, and the administrative costs. Please pray about being a sponsor, invite your friends, and come to Passover! It’s so important that you stand with Israel and Messianic Jewish believers now as we face growing antisemitism right here in the USA. May God richly bless you.

Rabbi Joe & Dawn



**If you cannot attend services, then just click
the live streaming link on our website!
Saturday mornings at 10:45 AM**

www.forzionsake.org

Stand With Israel!!
Like us on Facebook



Lion of Judah Messianic Congregation

Saturdays 10:45 AM

1128 New Hampshire Ave. Bristol, VA 24201

