

## Update from Rabbi Joe and Dawn



I apologize for not writing to many of you personally or sending thank you cards for your donations to help me in my fight with cancer. Please forgive me. I have been travelling twice a month to Florida since May for cancer treatment, tests, biopsies, scans; then we drive home so I can help lead worship and preach hopefully twice a month in my congregation. In May I was hospitalized for eight days and then again for two days in June. Honestly I'm just doing the best that I can to fight cancer, care for my family and my flock. It is more than I can do.

Please know that every card you send and every contribution you make, whether to help defray medical and travel costs or to support For Zion's Sake Ministries truly touches mine and Dawn's heart. You are a blessing. God sees what you do and He is a much better rewarder of persons than I am. We just want to say thank you!

### On the Medical Front:

Last September my local doctor threw his hands up and told me to seek a second opinion after ten years of fighting Hairy Cell Leukemia; which is really a lymphoma of the bone marrow that was named a Leukemia. I had chemotherapy in 2012 and it put me in remission for almost three years, but then the cancer came back. Natural remedies, juicing, vitamins, essential oils helped stave off the inevitable for a few years, but they did not cure me. After much prayer I felt led to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. My doctor there is a lymphoma specialist and is world famous. He is also a strong Christian! I speak fluent Spanish and I cannot tell you how many times I was feeling down and God sent a nurse's aid or a cleaning lady to pray over me and bless me, oftentimes in Spanish. Then there are the many times He has given me to share my faith with people in the hotel and in the hospital. I have no doubt that I'm where I'm supposed to be. Yet for two more months I must drive a thousand miles every other week for tests and check-ups. They told me that it would take about two months for the chemotherapy to kill the cancer in my bone marrow, then it takes about 3-4 weeks to begin growing new healthy cells. We are half-way there. We are believing that sometime in July I will begin to see healthy cells grow on



their own and hear the doctor say: "Rabbi Bell, you are cancer free!" I have seen several patients released from the hospital healed. They have a beautiful bell that they ring as they leave for the last time. I look forward to the day I can ring that bell.

In the meantime, know that we love you all and try to respond when we can. Our kids are living with their grandparents because Dawn and I are traveling so much. Dawn has not flown for the airlines since early March. Hopefully she can return in August. She only just began to collect some unemployment and I have applied for PPP. I missed nearly a full month of work and have only been able to work part-time since chemo began. Somehow God continues to keep the services going, and the newsletters going (though this one is a bit late); God's timing is perfect.

Finally, I can only describe cancer that attacks your immune system is like being quarantined for several years instead of several months. My world is very small. I cannot attend concerts or many gatherings. I've been wearing masks on planes for years, being very careful where I ate out, and social distancing since 2016. I have survived! I am living proof that with God, social distancing, rest, eating well and taking good vitamins you can avoid colds, flu, sore throats, and coughs. That's all for now, if you wish to reach us you can contact me at Rav Joe Abelow on Facebook or my assistant at [contact\\_fzs@forzionsake.org](mailto:contact_fzs@forzionsake.org) and I will respond to you. E-mail is probably the best way. God Bless you!

In Messiah's love,

*Joe and Dawn*



**Rabbi Joe is in there..**



**Rabbi's blood... we pray the Lord replaces it with His.**