

## August 2023 Ministry Update



Dear Friends of For Zion's Sake Ministries,

A couple of months ago I wrote an article called, *"The Roman Centurion's Love"*. In Luke 7 we read that it was the Roman Centurion who built the synagogue in Capernaum, a small country fishing town in Galilee. He was obviously a passionate believer in Yeshua/Jesus. When Yeshua met the Roman Centurion and heard that he had built the beautiful synagogue of Capernaum, He couldn't go fast enough to heal the centurion's servant; in fact he declared the Roman Centurion had the greatest faith in all Israel!

I couldn't have known that our fellowship hall wall would collapse just a couple months after I wrote that letter. Perhaps somewhere deep in my spirit I knew that it was coming, but I was letting the community and friends of the ministry know that our grand old synagogue was in need of many repairs. I believe God showed me that He would give the same blessing of the Roman Centurion to people who contributed with faith in that revelation! Several of you responded generously and I believe God will bless you for it. Then the wall suddenly collapsed 3 weeks ago and insurance has refused to cover it. Our fellowship hall is exposed to the wind and rain; we are currently at a standstill and in great need of action. The estimates to repair the building are \$40,000 to clean out the blocks and dirt that fell into the hall, grade the hill behind the building, install a french drain, and to rebuild the wall. Then we would be looking at an additional \$30 - \$35,000 to rebuild the interior of the building, including sheetrock, paint, carpet, etc., People have advised me to sue the insurance company, but that could take a year or more. Replacing the building outright would cost \$200,000 +, so \$70,000 sounds a lot better. I don't make many appeals, but I am making one now. I know many are struggling financially, but some are prospering greatly. Whether you give the widow's mite, or \$5000, we are grateful for your help.

According to Luke, the Roman Centurion built the synagogue of his city because he loved the Jews. The appearance of the Messianic synagogue of your city really is a reflection of the local community's heart for Israel. I feel God has shown me that He will bring high favor and blessing, the blessing of the Roman Centurion, on those who choose to give by faith to build up this community's Messianic synagogue. If my teaching blesses you, or if you want to bless Israel, you have the opportunity to do it by blessing this synagogue which is a standing symbol of our future together in the Messianic kingdom. Thank you for your prayerful support and prayers that God is glorified in this difficult situation.

In other news, Dawn is flying across the country and to South America in the 737 as a first officer, She loves it, and she is able to help support our family in a big way. Isaac is headed back to college to finish his first year after taking some time off. He works as a waiter and is trying to find direction. Josh is in his senior year of high school and is an amazing running back for the football team. He is so exciting to watch and is working with college coaches to find a school where he can play next year. He also has a 3.7 GPA, we are very proud of both of our sons. I am slowly making progress, The lymphoma I have been fighting since 2011 is stable thank God, but I have been battling painful osteoarthritis in my spine, hips, knees and terrible sciatica exacerbated by two falls in the last year and a half. They have twice burned the nerves in my back to dull the pain and it works for a few months. They also give me steroid shots. I try to keep moving and going to the gym just to keep my body going. We appreciate your prayers. Dawn and I know that God is not finished with us and that we still have much work to do, perhaps that is why the attack on us is so strong? Though I am in pain, I keep pushing on. Thank you for your faithfulness to For Zion's Sake Ministries, we pray for you by name when you write to us, so feel free to share your prayer needs. And a special thanks to those of you who are giving so generously to help us during this time of need.

Love,  
Rabbi Joe and Dawn

