



Jeff & Janet
Bernstein

September
2008

ROMANS 11:11

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HAVE THEY

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THEY SHOULD FALL?

CERTAINLY NOT!

BUT THROUGH THEIR

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THEM TO JEALOUSY,

SALVATION HAS COME

TO THE GENTILES.

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GATES OF ZION

September 2008

AND THESE SIGNS SHALL FOLLOW

I have a passion to reach people, especially Jewish people, with the message of salvation. When I read about the first Messianic Jewish believers it is clear that as they proclaimed the truth, their words were backed up with miraculous signs and wonders. My faith in the power of God has been renewed. I am trusting God as never before to work mightily to confirm the words He speaks through me with signs and wonders. This is the way Yeshua and his disciples ministered. Ministry devoid of the power of God is not biblical.

I have a group of close friends, most of them Jewish, who I grew up with in Brooklyn, New York. Over the past 30 years they have seen that my faith in Yeshua is unwavering. Over time I have had the opportunity to pray for many of them. As I was speaking to one of "The Boys" at a recent wedding reception he

shared that he was about to go to the doctor for a serious test. It was suspected he had coronary heart disease. I asked him if he wanted me to pray and he replied, "Yes." Two weeks later we spoke on the phone and he was sure to let me know, "Your prayers must have worked. The report was negative!" His Jewish wife also made a point of telling me, "Your prayers were answered!" I believe the next time I share the truth of Messiah with my dear old Jewish friend, he will be paying much closer attention! I am convinced that miraculous healing goes hand in hand with reaching Jewish people with the good news of Yeshua. This is changing the way I communicate the message of salvation. From now on healing and the power of God is part of the message. In fact — it is the message!

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4 AND MY SPEECH AND MY PREACHING WERE NOT WITH PERSUASIVE WORDS OF HUMAN WISDOM, BUT IN DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT AND OF POWER,

A recent photo of some of "The Boys" — Please pray for them.



AN OPEN DOOR IN NORWAY

When a door opens in the Kingdom of God it has been my custom to walk through it by faith although I am never certain what I might find on the other side. I guess that is how we wound up living in Russia and Central Asia for almost 10 years! Such a door opened in May. I was told that 100 young people from the western part of Norway were planning on a trip to Israel this summer to share their faith with Israelis. Those leading the effort are friends of mine and when I suggested that I would be willing to fly to Norway to train their team, they became excited but told me that there was no money available to pay for my flight. At first I concluded that the door was not as open as I thought. Then I began to consider, "When is money *ever* a problem for the God we serve?" I called them back letting them know that I had no doubt that the Lord would provide more than I would need to travel to Norway to train these young believers. I booked my flight and flew to Bergen, Norway in mid May. Of course as always God provided all that was needed.



Jeff with Tarje and Anne Grete, leaders of the youth who went to Israel

The understanding I imparted to the youth in Norway is what I am also imparting to Churches and Messianic Jewish Congregations in the USA and throughout the world. The remainder of 2008 is almost fully booked as I will be traveling almost every weekend to churches and Messianic Jewish Congregations to help believers in Messiah fulfill Romans 11:11 by learning how to "provoke Israel to jealousy." The ministry of the Gates of Zion has opened wider than ever! I stand in awe at what God is doing. I and others connected to our ministry perceive that an enormous potential for impacting the entire body of Messiah lies before us!

I sincerely apologize that I have not communicated to you and most of our faithful supporters for quite a few months. Please forgive me. It has been no small task to juggle all the demands on our ministry especially with all the writing I am doing. Somehow the production of this newsletter often gets left in the dust. Indeed the writing of this newsletter began back in June! Nevertheless I consider it my responsibility to clearly communicate what is being accomplished through our ministry which is made possible through your prayers and faithful support.

THE TIME AGAIN TO FAVOR ZION

I believe the time has arrived for some serious headway and breakthroughs to be made toward the salvation of Jewish people. In the 60's and 70's thousands of young Jewish people, myself included, entered the Kingdom of God. There was a massive opening of our collective blind eyes as many of us realized that Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel. This happened during a time of revival in the USA. Wherever I traveled back then there were "Jesus People" everywhere. Whether I was in New York City, Colorado or California, I continually ran into these people who were also known as "Jesus freaks." It was only a matter of time before I ran into the *Jewish Jesus freaks* who led me to the Lord.

I believe such a time is before us again. The great majority of Jewish people today remain outside of the Kingdom of God. I have faith that this is about to change!

PSALM 102:13 YOU WILL ARISE AND HAVE COMPASSION ON ZION, FOR IT IS TIME TO SHOW FAVOR TO HER; THE APPOINTED TIME HAS COME.

There are so many ministries today that are focused on Israel and the Jewish people. I do not think there ever was such intense interest as there is today about Israel than in all of church history. God is getting ready to do something big. My vision is to be a catalyst enabling believers to be empowered and effective to bring many Jewish people into the Kingdom of God.

NEW YORK CITY

When we returned to the USA after almost a decade in Russia and Central Asia we discerned our next assignment from the Lord involved New York City. I wrote at that time about my vision for the *Manhattan Project*. Why did I call it the Manhattan Project? The Manhattan Project was the name given to the project which produced the Atomic Bomb and of course is also the name of the chief borough of New York City. In Romans 11:15 the apostle declares Israel's acceptance of her Messiah would yield *life from the dead*. The greatest revival ever; the greatest power known to man — resurrection power — a power greater than nuclear power — will be released when the Jewish people embrace their King and Messiah. When many from the Jewish Community in New York City come into the Kingdom of God untold blessings and power will be released. Thus the Manhattan Project!

ROMANS 11:15 FOR IF THEIR REJECTION IS THE RECONCILIATION OF THE WORLD, WHAT WILL THEIR ACCEPTANCE BE BUT LIFE FROM THE DEAD?

New York City has always proved to be a very difficult and challenging field. New York, the city with the largest

Jewish population center in the world, has not had a large influential Messianic Jewish Congregation in decades. During the early 1980's I was an elder at Messianic Jewish Congregation, Kehilat Yeshua. We met in a hotel on the Upper East Side of Manhattan every Friday evening with sometimes as many as 300 in attendance. Yet that is a drop in the bucket for the largest Jewish city in the world. As I wrote in newsletters past, I began holding weekly meetings on Manhattan's Upper East Side three years ago. Then it dawned on me: Even if I am successful and plant a congregation of a few hundred, how will this substantially impact the three million Jewish people who live and work in the New York Metropolitan Area? I knew I needed to think bigger. I knew I needed another plan; a new strategy if I was going to really make a difference in New York.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE CITY

Ever since Janet and I traveled to Argentina years ago and experienced what God was doing in that nation, the concept of what I prefer to call the "Congregation of the City" has never left my mind. The concept is as follows: There is only one "Congregation/Church" in every city although it has many local expressions. Formerly there were pastors in an Argentine city, Mar de Plata, who hated one another. I do not remember the circumstances but there was a move of repentance among them. These pastors began to accept and embrace one another and over time came to love one another. They would at times switch pulpits and one church would take an offering and bring that offering to another church. All of these pastors saw their ministries as local expressions of the one *congregation of the city*. There were times when all these churches would come together and take one corporate offering and bring it to the authorities of the city. Needless to say, these pastors and their churches found great favor in the city of Mar de Plata. One of the luscious fruits of their love was that a large percentage of the citizens of Mar De Plata were born again!

Back to thinking bigger: I believe something like what happened in Mar de Plata needs to happen in New York City. I am told by church leaders, that there is a desperate need for unity among the churches of New York. I believe the unity that is needed is going to come through a united effort on their part to reach out to New York's Jewish community. Outreach to the Jews can be the rallying point for unity. I am doing what I can to help make this happen.

Many church leaders, I am told as many as 75, have been coming together once a month for corporate prayer at Times Square Church in Manhattan. What does this have to do with the Gates of Zion? I am glad you asked!

Remember Congregation Kehilat Yeshua in Manhattan? When that congregation broke up sometime in the late 80's

or early 90's many of the Jewish believers began attending Times Square Church. In those days Times Square Church, founded by David Wilkerson, had a huge heart for the Jewish people of New York City. This heart for the Jewish people is being restored! I received a phone call this past winter from Times Square Church. The present pastor invited me to come and teach a select hand picked group from the church. They have a strong desire to be trained to know how to effectively communicate the gospel to the Jewish people of New York City! I will begin teaching a six week course on Jewish Evangelism in mid November! This is a great opportunity and the beginning of something that can be very significant. Please agree with me in prayer that the multitudes of churches in New York that are connected relationally with Times Square Church will also catch God's vision for the Jewish people of the city. This is my dream!

I believe this is only the beginning of what God wants to do to capture the heart of Israel through the ministry of the Gentiles!

ROMANS 11:11 REVISITED

It was time to revisit Romans 11:11. This scripture has always amazed me.

ROMANS 11:11 I SAY THEN, HAVE THEY STUMBLERED THAT THEY SHOULD FALL? CERTAINLY NOT! BUT THROUGH THEIR FALL, TO PROVOKE THEM TO JEALOUSY, SALVATION HAS COME TO THE GENTILES.

What amazes me about this scripture is that it seems to be saying that the *reason* for salvation coming to the Gentiles is for the express purpose of making Israel jealous! Surely scriptures like John 3:16 and others indicate that God's love for the world is His motivation behind salvation. Yet when it comes to the big picture, the redemption of the entire world, the salvation of Israel looms large. If, as Romans 11:11 states, the salvation of the nations is meant to make Israel jealous, then why has this never happened? This has always baffled me. If it's the word of God I am sure it is supposed to happen. Since we are His called and chosen ones at this time in history could we be the ones called to make this happen? I think yes! How then are Gentiles supposed to make Jews jealous? In the next Gates of Zion Newsletter I will outline and explain what I have called *the 5 steps to provoke Jewish people to jealousy*. I and those I have shared this with believe this is truly from the Lord. I believe the Lord wants me to share these 5 steps with churches and Messianic Congregations throughout the world. Please join me in prayer that this will come to pass.

THE SCARIEST QUESTION

During the formal time of training we received while we were serving in Russia we were told an amusing piece of information. Missionaries who were otherwise fearless in the face of life threatening danger were simply terrified to

ask for financial support when speaking to Christians! There is tremendous uneasiness on the part of many who make their living proclaiming the gospel when it comes to asking for money. For us, before leaving the USA for the white harvest fields of the former USSR we had three months to raise all the funds. The Lord provided all we needed. However since we moved back across the Atlantic to serve the Lord here in the USA our expenses increased and some of those who supported the Gates of Zion in Russia and Kazakhstan no longer do so. While that assignment was full of adventure and even dangerous at times, our ministry has never changed! Our assignment is to reach Jewish people with the message of salvation and I now live among far many more Jewish people than I did in the former USSR! New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania just don't sound as exotic as Almaty, Kazakhstan or Tashkent, Uzbekistan!

We simply must increase our support base at this time. I know in my heart God will supply all our needs but that supply will mostly come through His servants and that is why I am asking each of you to consider making a very generous contribution to the Gates of Zion at this time.

I have great appreciation and thankfulness for those of you who gave generously during the time of our special assignments in Russia and Kazakhstan. I would like to now ask you to prayerfully consider coming back on board. Your support for the Gates of Zion will count for much at this time of great opportunity. Your renewed partnership would make a real difference. My dream is huge and the vision that burns in my heart is multifaceted:

- To minister to Jewish people, one on one, and by the thousands; through the media and through the internet — in remote and in major Jewish population centers using fresh new evangelistic perspectives geared for this new millennium with faith that the power of God will be released to confirm His message.
- To bring young interns along with me on this great adventure so many in this next generation will catch the vision and will learn how to effectively engage Jewish people in spiritual matters first hand.
- To encourage, challenge, equip and train the entire church world to team up with their Messianic Jewish brethren so together we can bring the gospel back to the ones who first gave it to the world.

- To equip the church to fulfill Romans 11:11, fully understanding how to provoke Jewish people to jealousy.
- To serve Messianic Jewish Congregations and equip their members to function effectively with power in Jewish evangelism and to embrace the call of Israel to be lights to all nations.

I realize that this assignment is way bigger than me. Therefore I am in the process of forming interdependent strategic alliances with other Messianic Jewish leaders, pastors, ministry leaders, churches and Messianic Jewish congregations. This cannot be done alone! We desperately need one another! I am eagerly working on finishing my book which I believe will challenge my readers to the core of their being concerning the salvation of the Jewish people. Please pray I will be able to begin the process of getting it published before this winter.

In order to fully focus on the vision and fulfill the dream, I need your help. Your generous support is crucial and now there is a way to support the Gates of Zion effortlessly (at least almost)! If you go to our web site at www.gatesofzion.net click on donate. You can then scroll down to the bottom under the heading, "Pay Online" and click on where it says ***YES! I would like to make this a recurring monthly donation.*** You are then taken to a secure web page to enter the necessary information. The funds are then automatically deducted every month from whatever credit card you prefer. If you want the funds deducted from your bank account instead please e-mail the Gates of Zion. There is also a way to make one time donations. Please pray about what the Lord would have you give.

Thanks from the depth of my heart for your prayers and continual support throughout the years. By the way, Janet and the children are all doing great. Yaron is now 17, Eliya is 14 and Ariana is 11 — More about the family in my next newsletter.

Blessings, Shalom and Love,
For the salvation of Israel and the Nations,

Jeff

YOUR FELLOW SERVANT OF YESHUA - A LIGHT TO BRING REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, AND THE GLORY OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL. (LUKE 2:32)

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As the Lord inspires you to support our vision and our ministry, please make checks out to "Gates of Zion" and mail to our administrative PO Box in Phoenix, Arizona.

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You can also contribute to the Gates of Zion online by going to www.gatesofzion.net and click on: "invest".