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Twins Adopting One Another



By Sarah and the Israel Gathering Team

We recently returned from a prayer gathering in Bahrain and UAE in the Gulf, with friends from around the world including David Demian and Watchmen for the Nations. We came as a mixed group of Jewish, Arab and Palestinian believers from Israel. During our meetings in Bahrain, the Lord highlighted Genesis 25:23, where He spoke to Rebekah about her sons, Jacob and Esau, in the womb:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לָהּ, שְׁנֵי גוֹיִם בְּבֶטְנְךָ, וְשְׁנֵי לְאֻמִּים, מִמֶּעַיִן יִפְרְדוּ;
וְלֵאמֹר מְלֵאִם יֵאָמֵץ, וְרֵב יַעֲבֹד צֶעִיר

And the LORD said to her:

*“Two nations are in your womb,
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;
One people shall be **stronger** than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger.”*

The word “stronger” here is ye-emetz (יֵאָמֵץ) – to prevail in a struggle. In Hebrew, this word shares the same three root letters (A.M.Tz./א.מ.צ.) with “adoption” (eemetz / אִימוּץ).

For years, we have been growing in the realization that the Lord has bound our peoples (Arabs and Jews) together in the Land from the womb as “twins” with almost identical DNA, and a joint destiny. Our shared history has been one of us struggling to see who is stronger, or who will serve the other. Yet in Him, we can choose not to struggle, but to adopt one another as inseparable, twin brothers.

As we were praying, one of the Palestinian women felt as if a spiritual birth was taking place inside of her. While we joined around her as Jews and Arabs, a militant Palestinian song popped to her mind: “Resist, resist, resist!” rings the refrain.

She said to the Lord and to the Jewish family, “I don’t want to resist anymore! We lay it all down.” There was an immediate sense of spiritual breakthrough, a birthing

of deeper surrender of our own rights, and release of His peace and joy – twins of a joint destiny, adopting one another.

Afterwards, representatives of many nations came forward with gifts they had prepared in prayer, in many cases months in advance of the gatherings. *Amazingly, many gifts centered around the theme of twin babies or brothers. Among them were twin Korean baby blankets and an Indonesian painting of twin brothers hand*



in hand with Yeshua (see picture). The same Palestinian woman, and another Messianic woman from our team stood representing the two nations receiving the gifts.

Another precious gift was two engagement rings, given from two separate Indonesian couples. These were the actual, personal rings that were used to propose marriage. As they tearfully shared their story, that God had been speaking to them to offer these rings in obedience, Sarah (the Messianic representative) felt the gift was too great; it was a greater honor than one person could receive. However, standing together with the Palestinian representative, she felt the strength of both receiving it together. It was too much for one person to carry, but together they received it as one.

I (Sarah) realized something from John 17: the glory of the Trinity that Yeshua longs to give us is too great for one person to bear. We can receive it only when we come together in unity as one Body. When we come together, we can hold and release that wondrous glory for the world to see.



Instructions for Assembly



By **Hannah Tekle**

Why Kehila?

"Kehila" is a Hebrew word that means community. It is used colloquially among Israeli believers to refer to a Messianic Congregation.

There is a saying in Amharic, the primary language of Ethiopia, that "the womb is as colorful as the rainbow." When our children were little, people would frequently use this phrase to explain the unique personalities and different qualities that each of our children displayed.

Our children happen to look very much alike. In fact, people often think that our two girls and two boys are two sets of twins. Nevertheless, they are as different from one another as can be! Despite having shared parents, shared life experiences, family traditions, standards and education, (even if the oldest ones often claim that the rules get looser and looser with each kid that comes along) siblings still turn out different.

Siblings share space. They share memories. They have to share toys and they have to share time and attention with their parents. Many times they get on each other's nerves and fight ruthlessly. But having brothers and sisters, as we have told our children so often, is like having built in friends. If it is done right, they are the people you will feel the most comfortable with, be the most challenged by, and be defended by fiercely should you need protection from someone or something.

Kehila is like a family. We are different but we belong together.

Congregants are like siblings. We do things together. We learn together. We grow together. We sometimes get along and sometimes we experience conflict. We love each other. We belong to each other. We grow better because we get

to share life together. We share one another's burdens. We share one another's joys and share in one another's grief as well.

In this post-Corona era, many are discussing whether the old format is still relevant. The weekly meeting and the classic congregational elements – worship, children's ministry, messages, and local outreach – are the weekly family meal, the family night, the family traditions that form the memories and the family flavor that gives us identity and belonging.

*"Let us not neglect the **assembling** of ourselves together, as some have made a habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (Hebrews 10:25)

Sometimes as families, we have to adjust and accommodate to growing and changing needs, so also as a kehila. A weekly tradition we used to have before Corona was a time of fellowship and refreshment in our coffee house following the Shabbat service. During the season of online services, we canceled the lease on the space that housed the coffee house, and our traditional fellowship time has not been the same since.



Continued on page 6



Native Galilean Now Sees Arabs Differently



By **Guy Cohen**

Orthodox Judaism influences a large portion of the population, well beyond its observant adherents. As a case in point, many Israelis who do not wear a kippah or consider themselves to be religious, still voted for the right-wing Religious Zionist political party in the recent Israeli elections.

On the other side of the political spectrum, we have the liberal political parties emphasizing personal freedom, tending towards a “do whatever feels right to you” attitude in all areas of society, but especially in the realm of sexuality and homosexuality.

Personally, I grew up in a traditional Orthodox Jewish environment in the Galilee. My view of non-Jews, including Arabs, was to lump them all into the same negative and inferior category. It was not necessarily hatred, more as if I belonged to an elite portion of society. I considered myself much better than those “pagans” outside my group and did not want to associate with them.

After I came to faith in Yeshua, I became more open to Arabs, as fellow Israeli citizens and to their culture and language. In addition, when I was a young man I got a job working at the Palm Beach Hotel in southern Akko. There were many Arabs employed there and as we worked together, I began to see that the differences between us were not so great. They too have been living here for many generations and we will not do to them what was done to us in Europe, and in the Holocaust. After all, **caring for the “foreigner in your midst,”** is one of the commandments of the Torah (Leviticus 19:34).

However, sometimes it gets complicated, when that “foreigner,” includes portions of the Bedouin population in the Negev Desert in the south who have become a lawless society, trafficking drugs, stolen IDF weapons, etc. There are

also extensive mafia-type Arab Israeli gangs in central and northern Israel. They hold great numbers of illegal weapons and extort money from Arab businesses. Innocent Israeli Arab bystanders are killed almost weekly due to internal violence. The peace-abiding majority of Israeli Arab citizens is desperate for these waves of crime and violence to be controlled. They are entreating the (Jewish) Israeli police force and the army to do whatever it takes to solve the problem.

Many believe that a liberal government with more moderate policies such as we recently had, is not as likely to solve these problems. Therefore, in the November 1st elections many young Israelis around the age of military service perceived the liberal approach as tying their hands and exposing them to unnecessary danger while letting crime escalate. So they elected a clear right-wing majority they felt could solve these problems. There is hope that the new government will have a chance for some stability and longevity following four years during which razor-thin government coalitions fell apart, again and again.

In truth, the ultimate solution will not be found in a stronger police force nor improvements to our democratic form of government. What we really need is a heart change – a new heart and a new spirit placed in us by Yeshua Himself! Then true change will come.

As a teenager, I used to write off Arabs just as right wing politicians do today, thinking it would be better if they were not here. Today, when I see an Arab, I see someone created in the image of God for His glory. My perspective changed because my heart was transformed by Yeshua, the King of Israel, which I hope and pray will happen to all.



Good Standing



By **Leon Mazin**

Shalom dear brothers, and sisters in Yeshua. Grace and peace be to you from God our Father! Thank you again for praying and participating in these Israeli ministry projects.

Congregational News

We recently finished the autumn flurry of Biblical celebrations with the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. It was uplifting and exhausting at the same time, as holidays always are. We hosted many guests from all over the world — including China, Latvia and Norway. We experienced the ministry of prophecy and words of knowledge, and were renewed in the presence of the Lord, friends, and family members. In the midst of national and international crises, elections and constant military threats, this season set apart was a wonderful gift from the Lord.

Humanitarian Aid Ministry News

With the influx of new olim (immigrants) and refugees, we urgently need to renew our finances! We have helped hundreds of people from Ukraine and Russia in recent months as more and more have passed through our center. Some came to Israel to escape the war, some to avoid mobilization in Russia, and there are those who came as refugees for a year or two — just a mass of traumatized destinies and needs. WE THANK YOU for donating and enabling us to serve these people!

Aliyah – The Return

Wars, famine, and epidemics are all foretold in the prophecies of the Tanakh and the New Testament. We are living in the challenging times of prophetic fulfillment. It's important not to lose focus. Israel's focus is Aliyah – the return of the Jewish “exiles” foretold by the prophets. As we see its growing pace, it is important for you to offer support through PRAYER. Interest in Aliyah is periodically lost in

the midst of other events, but the prophetic Word says that the RESTORATION of Israel will be a huge step closer to the return of the King of Kings. And we hear the prompting from the Spirit of God: *“Bring back Your scattered children to the land of their fathers.”* But there is a human toll. Aliyah is uncomfortable and even painful for many coming from Ukraine and Russia. They have undergone serious mental and emotional trauma. Our intercession can both bring them back *and also bring the Lord's healing.* Please pray for this!

A personal thought and experience to share: The Lord draws my attention to Exodus 33: 12-23 where Moses asks the Lord to reveal His glory. He declares, *“If your presence does not go with us, don't move us anywhere.”* I think every person growing in the Lord comes to the place - as I have - where he or she makes this desperate plea. And it is then that “prayer in one direction” ends, and a DIALOGUE begins.

And the Lord said, *“Behold, I have a place; stand on this rock...”* (Exodus 33:21).

Stand On The Rock! Those who know the New Testament understand that the Rock is the Messiah. It is only by standing on Him and building upon Him that we can withstand all that awaits us in the coming months and years. May you and I do so, and experience God's glory and guidance!



Instructions for Assembly

By Hannah Tekle

Continued from page 3

Not-By-Chance Provision

The fellowship hall, which adjoins our sanctuary, houses the humanitarian aid distribution center on weekdays, congregational events in the evenings and weekends, and ideally would be arranged and available for events at different times during the week as well. This multipurpose space has been well used for over 20 years and is in need of some repairs and renovations, involving replacing the broken tile floor, installing acoustic ceiling tiles and adding some atmospheric lighting. As we pray and plan these changes, our desire is also to recreate that welcoming “coffee house” atmosphere.

Renovations will begin in the near future, but in the meantime, congregational life must go on. We tried a few temporary solutions for the after service fellowship time, but felt frustrated with the results. Seeking to make some progress, we decided to begin by taking the coffee house chairs out of storage, and were planning to go shopping for tables and a few other items. And then *that very week we received a donation shipment that included tables, shelves and colorful rugs.* They were exactly what was needed to make a large, open hall feel cozy and welcoming – what a sweet and unexpected gift from God!

To highlight God’s provision to our congregational family members, we turned the service schedule upside down, just like the “cafe hafookh” (upside down coffee - cafe au lait) that we make and Israelis love to drink. Now we are beginning our service with a relaxed time of conversation over cookies and coffee followed by praise and worship enriched by the unity and bonding in fellowship. *This is not a “supplement” to our worship time. It is an essential element.* Especially after two years (!) of “remote” services, and with our marvelous cultural diversity,* we need this comfortable “kitchen table” setting to get to know each other, to be encouraged, and to bear one another’s burdens.

In family life, as in life in general, we hit rough patches. By God’s grace, with faith and prayer and sometimes with a little bit of mental, relational, and physical “elbow grease” the wrinkles smooth out and looking back, we are filled with contentment to see how God works.

Organized religions want all members to conform to a pattern, to be the same and disappear into the whole, but living out an authentic faith as part of a community is complicated. It involves reveling in our unique qualities and praising God for the differences and diversity while asking Him for grace to love one another. It requires agreement and unity on the important things, giving one another space on the marginal things, and being kind and generous in all things. We must be committed to a faith community. Our roots must be planted firmly to receive the full nourishment, paying the full price and receiving the full benefit.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3 KJV, emphasis added)

*God promised that regathered Israel would reflect this very diversity of national backgrounds.

“But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.” (Jeremiah 23:3)



Bearing Fruit x100



By **Tal Haroni**

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
(Matthew 13:23 NKJ)

In Yeshua’s parable **the soil is the heart** on which the seed falls, and **the seed is the word of God**. How important it is to prepare the soil of our heart for the seed of the word of the Lord. We would all like to bear a 100-fold increase of fruit in the kingdom of God. Amazingly, God called Adam to invest in working the land in Genesis 2:5; and Yeshua calls us to a similar task as well, to prepare “good ground.” We need to aerate the soil, remove large stones, and remove old roots liable to steal the plant’s nutrients (Hebrews 12:15).

We too, in our life before the Lord, want to invest in the soil of our heart – to “rake away” false beliefs and misconceptions, to be healed from the hurt and wounds of the past (Isaiah 31:1), to uproot the lies that steal the Lord’s peace from our lives, to pull down fortresses and everything that rises up against knowing God and subdue every thought for the sake of obedience to Christ! (2 Corinthians 10:5)

For 12 months we prepared ground physically. We chose to keep *Shmita*, a sabbatical year of letting the land lie fallow (Exodus 23:11). During this period we expanded the cultivated area with our main team, which consists of both Jewish and Arab Israelis, along with representatives from the nations, and many volunteers and discipleship participants who joined in. The volunteers even included some not-yet-believer Israelis.

Then at the end of Sukkot, the sabbatical year ended and we all mobilized for planting and sowing. The first seeds planted in the ground were sown by the children of the moshav, and we believe it is prophetic that the children are the first to sow after a long rest of the land. We planted several thousand seedlings in the expanded field, and are continuing to sow and plant.

Good soil will produce good fruit – both material and spiritual. The field which we are cultivating just outside of Jerusalem, is first of all meant to be used to grow people! Now we are preparing for the next discipleship program. **In January we will receive a group of new discipleship students for a three month intensive season**, and they will be like seedlings sown in the field spiritually. Our team will work together toward seeing good fruit for the kingdom in their lives. We create the framework, and invite the Lord to act in the students’ lives. The disciples pray and ask Yeshua to work in them, and He brings the increase. The inner man is changing into the image of Yeshua (Romans 8:29), becoming sons and daughters of God.

We are also planning a “market day” (*yom shuk*) – which will attract people from the surrounding area to the community of believers where we live, with the **goal of fostering relationships and also having opportunities to share the Gospel**. Additionally, we plan to start bringing vegetable baskets every week to households in the area, along **with a prophetic verse of encouragement and a prayer**.

All glory to the Lord of the Harvest!



Double Paradox of Discipleship



By **Youval Yanay**

Yeshua gives us an open invitation in Matthew 16, saying anyone can come and become His disciple! The offer contains two conditions and one double paradox; *“If anyone would come after me he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me”* (v. 24).

The **paradox** (seeming contradiction): *“For he who wishes to **save** his life will **lose** it, but he who **loses** his life for my sake will **find** it. For what good will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?”* (v. 25)

The **first condition** is to deny oneself. This means to let all my needs, desires, thoughts and even fears and ambitions die! To lay aside my own interests for the sake of God’s affairs. To replace our ordinary human ways with the ways of Yeshua. Yeshua left the sublime, comfortable, perfect place He was in, took on flesh and blood, and learned obedience to the point of death. As a result, His name is elevated above all names (Philippians 2:9). When we put aside our own desires, we put aside the biggest obstacle that stands between us and our deepest self-fulfillment.

The **second condition** is “... take up his cross and follow me.” Anyone who wants to truly follow Yeshua, should adopt his same attitude – choosing the Kingdom even if it means experiencing rejection, shame and sometimes actual physical death. The self-denying disciples of Yeshua do not care about the pleasures and sufferings of this world, compared with a much greater joy. Denying myself and carrying my cross daily is the narrow road leading to life, a daily opportunity to be like Yeshua, by living within His kingdom and sacrificing myself to serve others.

None of us deserves to be saved from eternal separation from God; all believers receive this gift by grace; but Yeshua is talking about an ongoing, daily discipleship process here. In order to enter into the spiritual kingdom of God, while we live and walk here in this physical world, our intentions and actions must coincide with His.

The Double Paradox

Cruel dictators throughout history and even in modern times seem to have gained everything, yet still die alone, *with* their wealth and paranoia, and *without* peace, much less a hope for eternity. Lot’s wife also demonstrated the negative consequences of preferring the world over God’s will. She was unable to leave everything behind, even though it was surrounded by sin and suffering. (Imagine what it was like to live in Sodom!)

The person who wants to “save his life” desires all the world has to offer. But Yeshua presents the only way to find our true life. He offers to free us from enslavement to the monstrous aspects of our desires and needs. He will help us find ourselves amidst the delusion and confusion of this world and attain true freedom.

Counterintuitively, the way to fulfill our deepest desires, to live a life of endless joy and peace even here, in this body, in this world... is to learn to sacrificially obey, even unto death, as we follow Yeshua into abundant life.

**Excerpts from a sermon given at our sister ministry Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv*



IAMWITH
ISRAEL

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

Dear Friends,

When Yeshua gave the commission to be His witnesses to Jerusalem, Samaria, and the ends of the earth in Acts 1:7-8, He foresaw you. Imagine that! He was speaking to the Jewish disciples of the opportunities awaiting them – **and to you!**

In a race, each runner has a starting and ending point. This both anchors and propels the runner to intimately know his or her race, plot out the track, and aim precisely for the victorious ending. Here in Israel, our leadership team is reminded of our **FIRST CALLING** – the Great Commission – our starting and ending point: *we are witnesses of Yeshua.*

We have an important goal to meet to fund the work of taking the Good News throughout Israel in 2023. Raising \$850,000 before December 31, 2022, will allow us to enter the new year with stability and capacity to grow. It will release and empower our teams to continue their courageous work as witnesses of Yeshua in Israel.

As a partner, you become a frontline ambassador to the Jewish people – no matter where you live or if you speak Hebrew. You instantly get to impact the lives of multiplied thousands of Israelis and Jewish people worldwide.

Because of your support to Revive Israel-Tikkun Global, we are showing Israelis the love of Yeshua and His kingdom in practical ways through #IAMWITHISRAEL initiatives.

Together, throughout 2022, we:

- Provided comfort and support to thousands of Jewish Ukrainians devastated by the war
- Fed the poor in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem
- Funded a new life-giving Medicycle (ambulance on two wheels) to Israel in memory of an Arab Christian police officer who died saving Orthodox Jews from a terrorist
- Supported a much-needed after-school program for Messianic children
- Helped single moms in Akko
- Cared for widows, orphans, and the fatherless
- Brought Arab and Jewish believers together for a powerful prayer summit

AND MORE!

With the financial support of faithful partners like you, more Israelis will experience the love of Yeshua this next year. **Please consider being part of achieving this critical goal by the end of this month.**

By giving to the overall work, you support each thing this ministry does!

Join us as Yeshua's witnesses in Jerusalem and Israel – something this land has not seen in 2,000 years!

Ron Cantor
CEO, Tikkun Global
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