

*Dear Trumpet Team:*

*I've just read your newsletter and was very touched by Jacob's plea. So many times I have felt the same way. I'm very aware of how unbelievers view the church, and I feel like they see division instead of unity. They see pride rather than meekness. Paul so clearly taught that we all must obey our consciences. For one man, certain days are sacred unto God; for another man, all days are alike. Each one is doing what he's doing because he wants to honor God. As long as that is our motive, our hearts are pure before Him. Why don't we just allow our brothers to be free in Christ? I long for unity in the church, not only in Israel but in the whole world! Let God be the Judge! And may we aim to be humble toward one another. Amen!*

*It's true that God was always seeking circumcision of the heart, not the flesh. He was seeking a spiritual Sabbath rest from works in order to gain salvation, not physical rest of the body. However, if we know these things are offensive to Jews, and we are trying to win them over, it makes sense to do both the physical and the spiritual, so as to not offend them in that way. The real offense comes from Jesus Himself, and that offense cannot be avoided! As long as Messianic believers know that circumcision, observing the Sabbath, not eating pork, etc. doesn't bring them any closer to God, then I believe we – the rest of the church or what you call the "mother church" – can accept it. (Not only accept it, but identify ourselves with you in observing the Law for the sake of the Jews, that you might win some.)*

*May our Father continue to speak through you and use you mightily. Thank you for your depth of insight and for your pure heart. Much love,  
The Crim Family*

Dearest Elisheva and Jacob,

How wonderful to have received your latest letter with details of the wedding! It was so compelling, I felt drawn into the mere words that described all the details, and then the photos of everyone coming together as one!

You have posed some deep questions and I realize that your descriptions of "unbalanced mother church practices" is a need for concern, and above all – PRAYER.

Without being repetitious, our days in Messianic worship in D. were foundational as God brought us to love the Jew first, and Israel. The first time we parted from a Messianic congregation was as the Lord led us away from "sensuous worship" that had snuck in. Actually, my husband and I spoke to the leadership – but it fell on deaf ears. We loved them dearly, I wept for weeks after we left there (even when I drove down that street) but we had to obey the Lord. We later encountered a Messianic congregation and soon realized that the "rabbi's" wife was leading and co-pastoring and as evidenced by a very American Pentecostal bent, we left there as well.

All these 20 some years we have remained true to Messiah – we are Gentiles who were touched by the fire of God, but for His will to be done in our lives, not for us to make a name for ourselves by promoting "how great we are because we love Israel". The narrow way requires us to walk the talk – walking so that people see Him, and not us.

I was at a flea market, antique shops in D. back in 1990 when I found the Sabbath Prayer Book, published in 1946 by The Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation. I have used it ever since for my personal devotions, as the heart of the prayers is so real. I have blessed the Lord many times for allowing me to find this treasure in a pile of old discarded books. I have often copied prayers from it to send along in cards to friends in need. I was surprised to read in your letter that there are "church" people who object to Messianic use of a Prayer Book.

There was a woman from Ireland, D., who befriended me in my early days in Messianic fellowship. We grew very close, very fast, as we had prayer and worship in common. She decided that she was going to start attending classes at the J C C because the Rabbi was a great teacher. She did not have to work at a job, so her morning was free to meet for the classes. Eventually, she also made friends with one of the older Jewish women there, and within a year, D. told me that she decided to convert to Conservative Judaism. All the time she and I maintained our friendship, I never saw it coming. We prayed and discussed many of the lessons from the Old Testament that her Rabbi taught on – I was so anxious about it, I couldn't sleep. She told me that she felt the Lord was leading her to convert so she could meet more Jews to witness to!!! You can see how a Christian's enthusiasm to belong in the Jewish community had imbalanced it all. Double minded and unstable. I asked her if she had realized what that meant, as it implied that she was renouncing Christ, since they knew that she had been a Christian. She said, "They did not ask me to renounce Christ...!" Hmmm! It was a difficult time for us. I prayed and prayed for her to re-think that decision. She did not. She came and described Mikvah and all the details. We drifted apart. Later, her husband was retired and they eventually moved away and I have no contact any longer. I thank you again for your faithfulness to serve Messiah Yeshua, no matter what it costs. It may seem that God is doing a New Thing, but really, He had this planned for you to serve Him from the day he sought you, and bought you, that His will would be done in Tel Aviv and beyond.

My present personal study is re-reading "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah" by Alfred Edersheim. He was a Jew who accepted Yeshua. He wrote many of his works back in 1883 while at Oxford. It seems that the old writings like this have such a deeper and more sincere passion to DECLARE THE GLORY OF THE LORD!!!!

Enclosed are two of the many prayers on the Sabbath Prayer Book from 1946.

Be blessed, my sister and brother.  
In Messiah's service,  
Mary, USA

### **Prayer for A True Sense of Values**

Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the precious gift of this Sabbath day, for the rest of body and spirit it offers to me, for the opportunities it gives me for attaining to closer fellowship with my loved ones and with my brethren in faith. I thank Thee for this welcome break in the round of toil and worldly occupations, for this chance of reading my own heart, of estimating more accurately how I stand toward Thee.

On this day of holy calm I see my life more clearly, and in its true perspective. My judgment of it comes nearer to Thine. What I deemed big things seem pitifully small; what I held to be worthless or of little moment seems big, fraught with immeasurable and eternal significance. Many of the pleasures and the possessions by which I set great store are dwarfed into nothingness compared with the joys and the riches with which the knowledge of Thy Truth and Thy Goodness fill my soul.

Bless I pray Thee, this clearer insight, this juster judgment. Give me strength of will and steadfastness of will and steadfastness of purpose, so that the holy light which now illumines me may go with me into the coming week, to gladden and to hallow it (for Your sake\*) AMEN

(\* added by me)

## **Prayer to Overcome Doubt**

There have been times, O God, when I have been disloyal to Thee in thought. My faith in Thee has wavered; my conviction of Thy goodness, of Thy very existence, has been shaken. The struggle of life was too fierce; its bitterness was more than I could bear. My plans and my hopes foundered; everything went against me; there seemed no chance of help anywhere. And I said: There is no justice in this life of ours. Sometimes suffering – my own as well as that of others – filled me with doubt. Why, I cried, does God allow His children to be afflicted? Where is His compassion? Thou almost ceased to exist for me in those times. I lost touch with Thy hand, which would have guided and soothed me. Had I but looked for it more steadily, sought for it more diligently. (It was I who walked away from Thee. \*)

I dared to judge Thee, O righteous Judge; I set my mind above Thine, O God of infinite wisdom. I saw but One side of the Truth. I saw only the shadows which now and again darken our way; I forgot Your light which often brightens it. I forgot that the sting of life struggle is a spur to a higher calling, that Your grace is a sure token of Your goodness, O Gracious Creator. My heart was haughty and I exercised myself in things too hard for me.

Pardon this my sin – my presumption, my blindness. But help me, too, O God. Help me to see life more steadily, with something of Your calm and all-embracing gaze. Help me to see the order that, through Thy grace, will emerge out of the chaos of human life here, and the love that will redeem its defeats and tribulations. For Thy mercies never fail; never does Thy heart cease to feel the woe of Thy children, O Heavenly Father.

AMEN

## **Dearest Jacob and Elisheva,**

As we have read your newsletter this month we have been touched by a deep cry from your heart and it is for this reason, we write to you now.

Your question ‘do Christians want to exclude Jewish people from the house of Israel when they present Jesus as Messiah, the only One who saves?’

We spring from a Gentile background but are now a part of that ‘new creation’ and we have pointed Jewish people to Jesus many times in our home, in years past. Our thoughts never went further than the God given moment of sharing the hope of the gospel. But there have been times when seeing a gentile come to faith in Jesus, we have inwardly groaned as we have thought where would we encourage them to go to be disciples? We feel this way not because we think that we are any better than other believers, nor are we standing aloof from fellowship, but we must be honest in our hearts. The scene is one of confusion. It is a maze of extremes, from liberal theology, where liberty has been turned into license, to secular psychology which has permeated so much of Christendom. There is the health, wealth and prosperity culture and the faith healers who promote healing on demand. The mega church with professional entertainment programs and budgets which weigh heavily, pressuring people to give. They lay heavy burdens. There is the sensual element in these modern gatherings which is called worship. It is not modest, neither is it spiritual, but it has a powerful emotion which draws the immature and unsuspecting under its soulful influence. We were in B&B for eleven years and met believers from all over the world who were experiencing this same agony of spirit. We see Christendom tossed to and fro and carried away with

every wind of doctrine. There is wave after wave rolling over this institution today and more so as we see the 'day' approaching.

We used to ask the same question as you have done; why so many believers have stopped going to organized places of religious worship? Why have they dropped out of the organized system? We now understand why because we feel the same as they do. We still fellowship with believers when we can, in small groups, but have no desire to be a part of the religious organized institution. We do not say they are not Christians; there are sincere believers among them, but each of us has to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Can we share with you our understanding of the church, the ecclesia, the called out ones; those who have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light. They are made up of the redeemed, Jew and gentile. This is the mystical Body of Christ. It may not necessarily be seen or understood of men, but each member is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and the Lord knows those who are His. They have been chosen from every nation, tribe and tongue and yet they have a spiritual union. They are oppressed; they have been torn apart at times with schisms and heresies. They have known distress, persecution and trial throughout their history. Within its ranks are tares as well as wheat; they grow side by side and will continue to do so until the harvest, when the angels will separate them.

The tares are 'darnel' which is poisonous and looks like wheat. Near the time of the harvest the darnel stands proudly upright, but the heads of wheat are ripe and golden and bow down with the heavy weight of mature fruit. The true church is veiled to all but her Bridegroom, and will not be disclosed until He reveals her at the consummation of all things, a sanctified, glorious church, washed and cleansed through the washing, cleansing power of the Word of God. Their personal application of this Word **which** brings the spiritual regeneration she needs to be holy, without blemish, transforming her character into the image of Christ. The true church could never have persecuted God's ancient people, Israel, because she sees God's perfect plan throughout the history of this nation from the beginning. She is a part of the 'new creation'; Jew and Gentile, the enmity having been abolished through the blood of His cross. She could never have blood on her hands because she is one with the 'true Jew', those having been circumcised not in their flesh, but in their heart, as was Abraham. The 'true Jew' Paul says, in not one outwardly, circumcised in the flesh, but one circumcised in the heart. So too are we, who were called 'the uncircumcision' but now have received this spiritual circumcision in the heart. 'For neither circumcision, (now) is of any importance, nor uncircumcision, but (only) a 'new creation' (the result of a new birth and a new nature in Christ Jesus, the Messiah) Gal 6:15

As we read about the wedding you attended and your description of those families who desire to live lives of simplicity out of their love for God, we could not help but think of the faithful remnant in the days just prior to the birth of Jesus. God has always had a faithful remnant. This principle runs throughout all Scripture. Those who waited in those dark days for their Messiah: Simeon, Anna, Zachariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, John the Baptist and all his disciples and the many more who were waiting faithfully, desiring to serve God. God knows the hearts of all men, to whom we can trust, to reveal

His Son, at the appointed time. 'Known unto God are all His works from the foundation of the earth.'

We hear the cry of your heart Jacob, but more importantly, God hears. He searches the heart. Our encouragement is to continue to give yourself to evangelism, for this is your gift; your calling. Lay aside the burden of what you see objectively in Christendom. God has a faithful remnant within Christendom as well as within Judaism. The battle is not between Jew and Gentile, but rather between flesh and Spirit. Satan will always be manifest through the flesh as Amalek. His hand is always against the throne of God and there will be enmity from God, against Amalek, from generation to generation. The Satanic mills will always grind through the flesh.

Dear brother, dear sister, things are not out of control but are in the hands of Him who hold all things under the power of His will. 'Say to the righteous, it will go well with them for they will eat the fruit of their actions.' Is 3:10

With prayerful hearts,  
Tom and Janet, New Zealand

How time flies! Joyce and I used to say, "We're getting old." Now we have to admit, "We are old!" Now that I've entered my 80<sup>th</sup> year (and Joyce just four years behind me) it's hard to realize that it was 27 years ago down in Bolivia that God surprised us with a ministry to Israeli backpackers. Over the next 18 years we had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with almost ten thousand Israelis (9,964 to be exact)! Then in the year 2000, due to Joyce's health problems, we had to return to the States. R. and L. carried on the ministry for another 7 ½ years and shared the Word with over 1000 more Israelis! But even before R. and L.'s departure fewer Israelis were visiting Bolivia because of political unrest, roadblocks and riots. Then in January of this year Bolivian president, Evo Morales, broke off relations with Israel in protest over the conflict in Gaza. That further closed the door to Israeli backpackers. Meanwhile here in the States, we thought perhaps the Lord was preparing a new ministry for us with Israelis at the local mall. We've met about 20 Israelis at their "Dead Sea Spa" booth and have invited each one to come to our home to have meal with us but so far we have had only one visit. We've been able to witness to some of them (when they weren't waiting on customers) and have given them Hebrew New Testaments and other literature. We are thankful that other believers are witnessing to them too. Now, we believe the Lord is leading us to move to NTMH. We will share a duplex with another retired missionary couple. There are many opportunities for ministry in the area, both Spanish and English.

With our prayers and our love in Christ,  
Bob and Joyce, USA

## Dear Jacob and Elisheva

I found it totally amazing to read your latest newsletter! Although we are Gentiles living in Australia, we are asking ourselves many questions concerning the Biblical law and its role in our lives.

For a Jew who has faith in Yeshua the dilemma must be difficult to work out. Particularly when they have been “brought up” in the “mother church” as you’ve explained. From my current understanding, we seem to have drifted quite away from true Biblical living in the Western church. When we are in Christ we are free – truly free! But this is not the freedom that the world considers as freedom. God has not saved, forgiven and justified us in order for us to freely sin! We are now slaves of Christ and our freedom comes in serving Him and obeying Him willingly and with a God-given joy in our hearts, doesn’t it? We are now free to serve God and do good works, when before all things were as filthy rags.

I have been thinking that surely our lives should appear different to those around us who live with no knowledge of God. Of course, we should be living without a fear of death and of what men can do to us, and this will hopefully be a witness to others. But shouldn’t there be a lot more to it than that? Shouldn’t our whole direction in life and our daily activities be different also? What about the holidays we observe? Even as a Gentile, are we best to observe Easter or Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread – God’s own days! (This is what our family has begun to do.)

Living away from Israel, these thoughts are considered legalistic, but the term “legalism” has taken on a meaning that is non-Biblical as far as I can see. Obeying the law doesn’t mean legalism. Yeshua obeyed the law, and yet never fell into the sin of legalism! It is only when we are looking for merit in our obedience that things turn legalistic. The obvious way of doing this is trying to earn eternal life by law keeping, but for Christians (like me) it can be more subtle. I can obey the law to unconsciously show myself as more righteous than others, or to earn some sort of extra merit with God – when Christ has already earned all there is to earn for those that are in Him! Legalism is always so close and we must keep a constant watch for it (isn’t that exactly the true message of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!?).

King David shows us in his love of God’s law that it is not a curse to live in obedience to God’s ways, but a true blessing! Surely, God’s assessment of David’s heart shows us that he didn’t live in legalism, but out of a loving and devoted heart towards God.

It was amazing to read of the wedding you attended and the life that their community is living near Jerusalem. In many ways, they are turning to the word of God when many ‘so-called’ Christians around the world are turning away from God’s word! Sadly, they have missed the most important part of God Himself dying to redeem and justify them. I pray that God will bring that life-changing truth to their hearts and minds one day as they seek to follow Him!!

I also thank God for you – Jacob and Elisheva – and those that work with you. Although we’ve never met you, we are so pleased that God has placed you and your ministry on our hearts! After praying for God’s direction in our giving, I discovered your website (about two years ago) and totally believe that this is God’s doing. We pray not only for God’s wisdom and protection to be upon you, but that ultimately He will be glorified through every aspect of your lives! To be transformed into the likeness of Christ must be the greatest thing that God can do in us (Rom. 8:29).

A few months ago, I gave one of your books to a Jewish family. It was one of the Hebrew books that I specially requested from you! We don’t know the family very well, but my brother works with the wife and brought them to our place to see and Australian farm. They were very thankful when I gave them the book, but it just sat in their car for about three months until the wife had run out of Hebrew books, noticed yours in her car and thought she’d give it a try! It sounds like she found it interesting and my brother has since given her a Hebrew NT to read. She and her husband are totally secular Jews – but we pray that God will turn their hearts towards Himself and open their eyes to the truth!! They have been to our house twice now, and I have wondered what they have thought about us. We have a menorah, boy’s names from the OT and know more about their own history than they do! Hopefully, this will bring them to the jealousy that you

speak of! That they will want to one day know the God I live for – the very same God of their (and your) ancestors.

In one of your older newsletters you talked about reducing your activities in order to seek God's direction for your lives at Gilgal. I commend you for this decision! It doesn't seem to be done very much in the many "ministries" of today. It makes me think of Joshua's lack of discernment when he went straight from Jericho to Ai, which ended in defeat. When Joshua ask God why this has happened, God appears to say that Joshua should have already known why this had happened (Josh. 7:10). He said to Joshua, "Get up; why do you lie upon your face?" If Joshua had been seeking God's direction after Jericho, he would have understood that something had to be dealt with first. May God show you, at this time, what you need to understand, deal with and learn!

I have said quite a lot without knowing if there is anything meaningful for you in what I've written. I pray that God will use something that I've written to bring encouragement to you both! I trust that He will guide you towards a greater Biblical lifestyle and that those who come to faith in Christ will not be led into the traditions of the "mother church" or the newer traditions of the Messianic "movement", but into a true Biblical framework that God has laid down for us over many centuries. God's law is not outdated or finished with because of Christ, but without the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Yeshua upon the cross the law is totally meaningless in the light of eternity! May God show you (and us) the correct balance between the law and freedom!!

With our love and prayers,

Marcus and Sonia Gellert (and Caleb, Elijah, Nebraska, Micaiah and Manoah), Australia

PS: After finishing the letter, I felt that I'd like to also give you another perspective on Acts 15. In Christian circles this is always used to say that we (Gentiles) have no need or requirement to follow the OT law/Torah. However, I'm starting to question that viewpoint.

There's a very interesting verse in the middle of Acts 15- verse 21. This may be saying that there's four things the Gentiles need to abstain from (v. 20) as they begin their Christian walk, but as they learn and grow, they will discover through God's Word how God desires them to live – particularly from Moses in the Torah. We know that all scripture is profitable to us (2 Tim. 3:16), and at the time 2 Timothy was written, only the OT was in use! Another point concerning legalism also comes into this view on Acts 15. When people say that a Gentile will be falling into legalism if they observe the Torah, they forget that we can fall into legalism with these four directives, too! Abstaining from blood, etc. will never save anyone, and yet the Gentiles were directed to do these things. On the other side of the coin, these four directives did not mean that the Gentiles were free to murder, lie or steal. They still had other things to learn and begin to observe as they grew in their faith – just as we do now.

**Dear Jacob,**

On reading your newsletter. It was very disturbing reading the statement of the 'religious' man. You are a GODLY man, with the hand of the LORD on your shoulder – it is an unsettling, hurtful sentiment and it's a reason for you to continue speaking the truth – what the LORD says about the Great Commission and the fulfillment of HIS WORD. I am just writing to encourage you, your dedication and declaration to our brothers and sisters, that Jesus Christ is their Messiah – what is more important than this. I love your impact, your vitality, your strength proclaiming the truth, bringing a fresh revelation on the streets of Tel Aviv or wherever you are speaking. Your heart, spirit and soul are completely engulfed by the Holy Spirit of GOD:

What a wonderful encounter of the blissful wedding ceremony you described, it sounded perfect, like a beautiful dream come true for your nephew. I just want to bless them too. What a great privilege it is to be part of this community, just to realize you are with GOD'S chosen people.

- Habakkuk 2:2-3 says:

Write the vision – and make it plain on tablets – for he may run who reads it – for the vision is yet for an appointed time – but at the end it will speak and it will not lie – Though it tarries, wait for it – because it will surely come – it will not tarry.

I am writing with a heart full of gratitude in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Judith, Australia

**Dear Jacob and Elisheva,**

Thank you very much for your letter in reply to mine. I was so very touched to read your letter that you called me friend. It is just wonderful that no matter where we come from in the world nor what our nationality is, the Holy Spirit makes us one in the Messiah, our Saviour and Lord.

At our Christian Friends of Israel meeting I read your letters out to group members and like me, they were very disappointed that at this particular time it was just not possible to arrange a meeting. However, it was unanimously agreed that I write to you asking for a copy of your dates and that it will be possible to attend one of your meetings when you come.

It was lovely staying at your hotel when some of us were on a tour last year. K. was our tour guide, as you know, and she was absolutely terrific. When you see her would you kindly tell her I send my love and shalom.

Thank you again for your letter.

Every blessing as you go about your Heavenly Father's business.

With love and shalom,

Betty, UK