

October 2006

## Be awake!

*Dear beloved friends,  
brothers and sisters, children of God, fishers of men,  
soldiers of the Most High, co-workers in our Lord's  
vineyard, my true redeemed family - grace and shalom  
with much love, wisdom, joy, strength and good health to  
each and every one of you from God our Father and  
Yeshua our Lord, in whom we have become deeply united  
by the grace of God who has given us the revelation of the  
time in which we are living and the knowledge of the hour  
which is coming upon Israel.*



As you well know, Israel's recent war against Hezbollah, who kidnapped two Israeli soldiers into Lebanon, was a real wake-up call to our government, our army and the entire nation.

Beloved of God, one of the most, if not the single most devastating danger for my people Israel, and also for you and me, is the danger of falling asleep. I am not speaking of the good and healthy sleep of hardworking people but of ***“those who are at ease in Zion... who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria.”*** (Amos 6:1)

Now that the war has ceased, now that the rockets, missiles, artillery, fighter jets, machine guns and fire have stopped (at least until the next flare-up) the recriminations have begun. Israel is preoccupied with discussions and debates about the number and kind of committees which should be organized in order to cut off the heads of certain government and army officials, to provide a quick fix for people's consciences.

Having experienced how susceptible and unprepared Israel was to protect herself from enemy attack, the aim now is to make the army and government more efficient and Israel more secure. This reminds me of so many church and mission committees that have endless discussions about how to be more effective and fruitful, but in the end are to no avail. My involvement with a number of different committees in Israel and the USA has taught me very well that unless people are awake and involved, with their hands on the plow out in the field doing the work - not just talking and drinking coffee while sitting in air-conditioned comfort as the war is going on outside - most committees are nothing but vanity.

To my deep sorrow and weeping heart, Israel's government and army commanders in recent years have been more concerned about their positions, homes, cars and wealth than the wellbeing of the people. This was not so in the 50s and 60s after Israel had just become a nation. Then its leaders had a vision and determination to protect and provide for this fledgling state regardless of the personal cost to themselves. Sadly this is no longer true - complacency and selfishness have set in.

It is a tragedy that many mission organizations and church committees fall into the same trap - neither the true will of God nor the advancement of His kingdom are of any concern for them. Too often they are afflicted with the same kind of complacency and selfish motives, having an inward rather than an outward focus.

Reading Acts, we see that this was far from the case in the first century when the church was beginning to rise in Jerusalem. So this war is a timely warning -all of us are in danger of falling asleep. If the disciples could sleep while Yeshua, having repeatedly urged them to watch and pray, was still with them, how much more vulnerable are we?

**Now, more than ever before, is the time to be awake and watchful.**

We are approaching the year 2007. It is 40 years since the 1967 'Six Day War' when Israel regained control of Jerusalem. No longer would she be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles. (Luke 21:24) If we consider the 40 years that the children of Israel spent wandering in the Sinai desert to be one generation, so that Joshua could enter the Promised Land with a new generation, could it be that the words of Yeshua are referring to this new generation born in Israel when He said: ***"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."***? (Mt 24:34)

The blooming of the fig tree has begun. Could it be that soon the Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world? Could it be that we are the generation which will see the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven? (Daniel 7:13)

As I think of the flight to the south of Israel, by thousands of people living in the north, who were attacked by some 4000 Hezbollah missiles and rockets, I am shattered at the prospect of how it will be and what will happen when Iran, Syria, all the Muslim world and their terrorist groups rise against Jerusalem. I am reminded of the words of Yeshua to me and to my generation:

***"Pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath."*** (Matthew 24:20)

I cannot stop thinking and praying about what will surely be the soon-coming next round. Will it be with Syria and Iran? Will it be the final war?

Certainly we cannot trust the United Nations although they are positioning themselves in Lebanon ostensibly to protect Israel. The United Nations allowed Hezbollah in the last six years to build their bunkers in Lebanon thereby enabling Hezbollah's advantage in this war. Time and again, the United Nations turned a blind eye to attacks by Hezbollah against Israel, hiding their true evidence for fear of the Moslem world. More than ever before, I pray that Israel would trust their almighty God and their promised Redeemer rather than their army and air force. Oh that God would empower and anoint Trumpet of Salvation more and more to provoke Israel to jealousy! Oh that the cry of our hearts would be for the Jews to call on Him: ***"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"***

I am closely watching and seeing how Jerusalem is becoming a ***"cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around."*** (Zechariah 12)

I hear and see the entire Islamic world rising against Israel and the word of my Lord is ringing in my spirit - ***"you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars... these things are merely the beginning of birth pain."*** (Mk 13:5-8)

I realize more and more how much pain and suffering is in this world - the poor getting poorer and more desperate and the rich richer and fearful for their lives and wealth. Sin abounds ever more. Two days before the Feast of Trumpets the worldwide Pride Parade of homosexuals is scheduled to take place in the city of our God. Jerusalem will be defiled. Why don't they hold their pride parade in New York, London, Berlin, Sydney, or Tel Aviv? Why do they insist on Jerusalem?!

I am shattered at the thousands of followers of the *Lubavicher Rebbe Schneersohn*, whom many Orthodox Jews consider to be Israel's King Messiah (he died in the year 1994), and also at the number of disciples of *Rabbi Nachman of Breslev in Uman*, whom others believe to be a type of the Messiah.

I am reminded that ***"Many will come in my name saying 'I am the Christ' and will mislead many."*** (Mat 24:5). I think of the confrontations we have had during Trumpet outreaches with some of these deceived followers of false Messiahs. In one confrontation, a follower of Schneersohn glued himself to us as we marched through Tel Aviv, shouting: ***"Danger! Missionaries! Christians! Keep away from these people - they want to make Christians out of you! Don't listen to them! Don't take their books and tracts!"***

He began his diatribe downtown and remained glued to us while we continued our march along the beach of Tel Aviv.

As the anger of the Lord kindled within me, God gave me the opportunity to use this man as a platform since he was attracting the attention of the crowd. Using my megaphone (a great advantage which he lacked) I spoke out: *“The Chabad movement wants you to believe and put your trust in Schneersohn, who was born in Russia, died in Brooklyn and never set foot in the Promised Land of Israel. He was not born in Bethlehem. He was not led as a lamb to the slaughter to bear your iniquity and he was not cut off for your transgression. He cannot cleanse your soul and he cannot provide you with a new heart and a new spirit.*

*It is time for the Chabad movement and you, the sons of Israel, to see that only Yeshua is your promised Redeemer - Yeshua, who was born in Bethlehem, who healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, set the captives free, raised the dead, went as a lamb to the slaughter and did not open His mouth, Yeshua, who rose from the dead and conquered death, Yeshua alone can fill your heart with the hope of resurrection.”*

How I would love all of you, our true friends, to experience an outreach! I would love you to hear and see our volunteers - one mighty woman of God is leading the marching saints, whose bright blue or orange T-shirts bear the scripture in Hebrew and English: **“Your people are my people and your God my God”** (Ruth 1:16). They are singing praise songs to our God, waving Israeli flags and passing out countless tracts and books, going out two by two conversing with Israelis, presenting the Gospel of our risen Lord, raising the name of Yeshua throughout Israel, making Him a topic of discussion.

Furthermore, you should be in our Jaffa base and hear the long and deep conversations with Israelis who phone and visit in response to their meetings with the saints. Then you should pay a visit to our home congregation, or any other congregation in the land, to meet Israelis who come to experience and understand firsthand this phenomenon of Jewish people becoming completed Jews through faith in God’s promised Messiah, who promises to circumcise their hearts. (Ezekiel 36)

For 2000 years, Israel has done her best to ignore Yeshua. Now I praise God for so many of you who are coming from all over the world to pay your debt to Israel by bringing the Gospel back to its original recipients, and proving God to be true (Acts 5:38-39).

Last Saturday we welcomed Sh., to our congregation. He is a 28 year-old ultra-orthodox Jew who became secular 3 years ago. He received our tract in downtown Tel Aviv, and was moved by the glowing faces and shining eyes of the ‘living stones’. Reading the word of God in the tract made him think and question, so he came with his friend S., for the first time in their lives to a Messianic service. Now they are reading the New Testament and the book ‘*Lama Davka Ani?*’ (Why Me) with great interest.

God is constantly bringing blessings like this into His growing body, and you, who are coming from all over the world to participate in Trumpet campaigns, have so much to do with this great move of the Holy Spirit. You may not see much fruit during your time here, but you may be sure that every march, every eye contact, every tract or book, conversation, prayer and song on the streets, the beaches or in the army camps is one more drop of God’s tears touching the stony hearts of His covenant people.

The more we identify with the compassionate heart of God and weep with Him over Israel’s lost condition, the more the lost sheep will recognize their good Shepherd.

At this point, I want to salute all of you who have taken part in Trumpet campaigns over the years and made a difference here in Israel. I also want to thank all of you who are so faithfully loving, praying and giving to the Lord’s work via Trumpet.

*We thank you with all our hearts  
for carrying the burden with us,  
Jacob and Elisheva Damkani*