



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE



DECEMBER 2010

UNITY, DESPITE DIVERSITY

in the Body of Messiah

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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

Outreach Israel Ministries and TNN Online

There is One Almighty Creator God of the Universe, who has revealed Himself to us in the manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came in fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Scriptures and is fully God. It is mandatory for us to believe in a Divine Redeemer to be saved. Salvation is a free gift of God to all who receive Messiah Yeshua into their lives and confess of their sins. Those who reject Messiah will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The Holy Scriptures, Genesis-Revelation, are the inspired, infallible Word of God as revealed in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

There is only one assembly of chosen ones/elect, the people of Israel, of which all Believers in Messiah are a part. God does not have two groups of elect: Israel and "the Church."

The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the foundation of all Scripture, was followed by our Messiah Yeshua, and is to still be followed and studied by Believers today.

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the saints after the Tribulation period.

OIM is an *agapē* ministry, freely and benevolently giving the vast majority of its teachings and resources, without charge, to those who desire to be spiritually nourished.

For a fuller Statement of Faith, consult the OIM website

Outreach Israel News is the monthly newsletter of Outreach Israel Ministries, a non-profit organization with an emphasis on reaching, teaching, and encouraging the Messianic community. Subscription to **Outreach Israel News** is without cost and supported only by donation.

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OIM UPDATE

December 2010

This December with the *Chanukah* season coming especially early, our family gatherings have been altered because of children in other states working and attending college, coupled with our collective desire to convene for Thanksgiving in Boulder, Colorado to emotionally support my parents and brother-in-law after the recent death of my sister. Nevertheless, OIM has once again faithfully provided seasonal teachings via Virtual Chanukah 2010. We hope and trust that your Winter family customs which include gathering with loved ones, close friends, and food, will be a blessing to you *and* that your walk with the Messiah of Israel will mature so that your testimony of love and compassion will be a pleasant aroma to the Lord. We know and understand the relational challenges of this season for many, but pray that as the Gregorian calendar year once again comes to a close, the fruit of the Spirit will guide every one of your words and thoughts.

To further complicate some of our ministry objectives, our moving out West to Dallas has created a less-than-perfect communication situation, as I have relocated and spent the past twelve weeks—including two trips to Boulder—reestablishing a presence within the North Texas community of faith. This has been an extraordinary time of me reconnecting with former friends and acquaintances from not only various Messianic groups, but also from many of the Christian groups where we formerly circulated. After a twelve-year absence from the Dallas-Ft.Worth metropolis (other than occasional short term visits), some extended time is now allowing me to ascertain just where some of my fellow Christian brothers and sisters are on their spiritual journeys.

While there is visible and tangible growth in vegetation, considerable new concrete and steel buildings and new or extended highways and a light rail system, my more sincere interest is noting where other pursuers of God are located on their personal walks with the Messiah of Israel. To my delight and occasional surprise, I have found people who are *very serious* about their faith and have been sincerely interested in how the Lord has been guiding our family over the intervening years. I have already been leading a Bible study where I am taking a group of Christians through our *Hebraic Roots: An Introductory Study* workbook. Providentially, it appears that the Lord is preparing various hearts to dig much deeper into the Hebraic and Jewish Roots of our faith (even though some might not change as quickly as we did in 1995). As a ministry dedicated to reaching out to God's people whomever they are, we know that the various studies and informational materials we have been developing and preparing for the past eight years are ideally suited to help many souls hungering for a deeper walk with the Lord, in their search and continuing pursuit of Him.

Last month I was prompted to write an article called "**The Rules of Engagement,**" which I am sure to explore in greater detail and dimension in additional areas and further writing, because of much of the critical information that needs to be discussed. But rather than share more on this subject for December, the Lord has had me go back to a topic that was on my heart before the interruption

of my sister's death in September. The subject of unity within the Body of Messiah, and in particular the broad Messianic community, where we as a family have been placed for the past fifteen years (1995-2010), is one which certainly generates a great deal of discussion. Ironically, because of considerable interactions with many different Messiah followers located in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex, I have been forced to see a broader perspective of what our Heavenly Father is doing not only among Messianic Believers, but the greater Body of Christ. The result of some of this is seen in my thoughts for this month's article, "Unity, Despite Diversity in the Body of Messiah." It is my prayer that during what can often be a complicated Winter season for Messianics, the Lord will give each of us a bit of wisdom and humility to know and embrace what the Prophet Isaiah so eloquently declared:

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Finally with 2010 coming to a close, we want to thank each and every one of our supporters for your faithfulness to help us in our work, most especially for your prayers and consistent financial offerings for our efforts. It has always been a personal blessing to me to know that we are the workers, and the Almighty is our Provider. We work on many materials to teach, encourage, and disciple the Body of Messiah—and God then uses people *like you* to provide what we need to pay our monthly expenses, release the various books, and now help with our relocation to Texas. We anticipate good things in 2011, as Outreach Israel is being positioned to reach a much broader audience, and have a more concentrated impact on many Believers seeking Him. Your confidence in us is highly valued and greatly appreciated!

Advancing His Kingdom, until the restoration of all things...

William Mark Huey

SURVEY OF THE APOSTOLIC SCRIPTURES BIBLE STUDY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



As a Messianic Believer, do you have a problem reading the New Testament? When you read the Apostolic Scriptures, are you confused when you encounter the Gospels, Acts, or Epistles? Have you possibly been taught that the "New Testament" replaces the "Old Testament," and that there are contradictions between the two, only to be reconciled by the coming of Yeshua? Do you have difficulty reconciling the words of the Torah to Yeshua, Peter, Paul, John, and the other Apostles?

If you have ever asked any of these questions, it is time that you receive a re-introduction to the Apostolic Scriptures. These texts record the life story of Yeshua the Messiah, the history of the First Century Messianic community, and the challenges that the early Believers in Yeshua faced. These texts are not contrary to the Torah, but do continue God's progressive story that begins in Genesis. They have valuable lessons that every Messianic Believer and Messianic congregation must learn in this hour, as the Messianic community grows and matures.

This study is being offered in anticipation of our Tanach survey study coming in 2011!

UNITY, DESPITE DIVERSITY

in the Body of Messiah

by Mark Huey

The Holy Scriptures are replete with verses and passages that deal specifically with the concept of unity among those who follow and call upon the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Whether it be the inspired words of King David to his countrymen within the ancient Kingdom of Israel, or the exhortations of the Apostle Paul to the First Century Messiah followers in the Mediterranean basin—the appeal for unity among the called out ones is foundational. Without a sense of unity among God’s people, that time-tested universal adage “United We Stand, Divided We Fall” applies, a motto which notably appears on the flag of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, representing the frontiersman (Daniel Boone) and statesman (Henry Clay) joining forces together in common cause.¹ From the Bible, however, Psalm 133 establishes an important connection between unity and a blessed, eternal life:



“A Song of Ascents, of David. **Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!** It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard, *even* Aaron’s beard, coming down upon the edge of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion; **for there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forever** [*chayim ad-ha’olam, עַד-הָעוֹלָם, הַיְיָיִם*]” (Psalm 133:1-3).

There are many critical and imperative reasons to seek and facilitate unity among any group of people who want to maintain its existence, and perhaps influence others. Naturally, when it comes to the worldwide Body of Messiah, it is of paramount importance to recognize that unity is critical for perpetuating the faith, and for it to make a concentrated difference in our sinful world. In the following words to Believers in Asia Minor, the Apostle Paul elaborates on the concept of unity and oneness. Not only should all of us understand the singular focus of every single one of God’s people being of the same body, the same Holy Spirit, the same corporate calling, serving the Lord, etc.—but that equipping all saints to know and embrace these realities is required of them to mature:

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one

¹ Do note that both the Huey and McKee families have Kentucky roots.

Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all...And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, **to the building up of the body of Messiah; until we all attain to the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah” (Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13).

The result, of born again Believers being built up in the Body of Messiah, is to ultimately be “the unity of common faith and common knowledge of the Son of God...[arriving] at real maturity” (Phillips New Testament). When such spiritual maturation is able to abound, then more and more people can be propelled into the work of God’s Kingdom. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the evil powers of the world, the flesh, and the Devil—all worthy adversaries—are constantly active to disrupt and halt any attempts by redeemed saints to maintain, *or sometimes even seek*, the unity that so pleases the Holy One of Israel. **What can be done about this challenge?** Are there some steps each of us can take individually, and even corporately, to avoid the pitfalls of discord, strife, and superfluous disputes?

In recent weeks as I have been transitioning back to living in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex—after a twelve-year hiatus or “exile” living eight months in Honduras, a year-and-a-half in Oklahoma, and now almost eleven years in Central Florida—I have found that not only are the Messianic groups here diverse and different, but that the Body of Messiah itself is extremely varied. Much of it is beyond my wildest thoughts, as I attempt to understand the complexity of various group of Believers intent on serving the Creator God. With appropriate humility, the reminder of human finiteness is summed up in these clarifying words from Isaiah 55:8-9:

“**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”**

When we can each recognize that the complexity of God’s work on Earth is beyond human understanding, why is disunity among many of His people such a constant problem? While disunity is present among many groups of evangelical Christians, it is most apparent within the relatively small Messianic community of faith—which our ministry faithfully serves. Is such disunity the result of impatience, personal agendas, or just not having one’s priorities in the right place? *What is the most important thing to the Messianic movement?* Is it being Jewish? Is it keeping the Torah? Or is it demonstrating love to others with the grace and mercy of the Lord Yeshua?

What would it be like if every ministry and/or Messianic assembly, of whatever size and from whatever persuasion, spent the bulk of its time focused on the Savior and His work for us? Is it possible that much of the strife and division we all complain about would disappear? What would happen if we would recognize Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) as the common denominator, and if making the considerable effort to emulate and follow Him

occupied more and more of our collective thoughts and actions?

If more true followers of the Messiah of Israel *spent more time* looking at Him, considering His teachings for our lives, and they really asked the Lord each day how they can know Him better—then perhaps today's Messianics would be more impactful. Let us take a look at a few passages from Yeshua that detail things **that we really need to focus our attention upon**. Ponder not only how powerful these words are for individuals desiring a closer communion and walk with Him, but also how they are to help guide us into greater unity with fellow brothers and sisters who have sought His salvation as well!

When most people are asked about the Lord's Prayer, they typically immediately think about what is recorded in Matthew 6:9-13. In fact, most Christians have some form of this prayer not only personally memorized, but it is notably repeated in the worship liturgy of many evangelical denominations:

"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray, then, in this way: **'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'** For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:5-18).

While reciting the Lord's Prayer is a most appropriate way to approach our Heavenly Father (in addition to reciting the *Shema* of Deuteronomy 6), in the wider context where it appears there is some rather compelling teaching that should not go unnoticed. The Messiah's followers are to be most aware of how they behave, in terms of not acting according to the ways of the world, as religious people who often go through various motions and want to be seen—but above all people *who fail* to forgive others for transgressions committed against them. **Yeshua's words here are so powerful**, that if God's people today could just fully embrace such a walk of faith, their lives would be most meaningfully fulfilled. *They would be able to be true beacons of His goodness to the world.* I encourage you to read through the Messiah's complete Sermon on the

Mount (Matthew chs. 5-7), and conduct a little self-examination to see just how well you are following His ways. You might be surprised, or you might be disappointed. Nevertheless, the exercise just might give you another chance to mature in your walk, and recognize those specific areas where you need improvement.

Another significant passage of Scripture, which should really focus our attention upon the Lord's will for His people, is seen within the scope of John chs. 14-17, which records the conversation that took place during Yeshua's Last Seder meal and immediately afterward in the Garden of Gethsemane. Such words, which come directly from the heart of our Savior, must convict each of us not only about the sacrifice He has offered on behalf of sinners—but **how we are to respond to this one to another as His followers.** Within John chs. 14-17 appears what is sometimes known as Yeshua's high priestly prayer, which more than anything else is an appeal to the Father for unity among His Disciples. The model for appealing *for anything* to our Heavenly Father is very much embodied by the words found in this passage. As you read what the Messiah says, do not only approach these as encouraging words to just be thrown around here or there. **Yeshua delivers these words knowing He is soon to be humiliated and brutally executed:**

"I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. I am no longer in the world; and *yet* they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We *are*. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. **The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.** O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that

You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:9-26).

There is a major emphasis obviously seen on love and loving one another. But have any of you ever contemplated the real degree of unity that the Messiah expects His followers to have? He actually appeals, “May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You” (HCSB). To some degree or another, Yeshua’s human followers are to strive to be united to the same degree as the Father and Son are united as members of the Godhead. Such a degree of intimacy with our Creator is often most incomprehensible for many of us. Individually speaking, many of us may be able to perceive—on some small level—our own selves or people from our families or close sphere of friends attaining much of this level of unity, at least in purpose. *But Believers all over the world?!* This sounds completely impossible.

If the Spirit of the Most High resides in us, and has given us a new heart of flesh (cf. Ezekiel 36:26), then being united with other Messiah followers is a worthy, lifelong goal. It does require that we be entirely submissive to the Lord, and steadily seek His will. **We surely need to be exemplifying the love of Messiah day-by-day.** Should not the unity Yeshua desired for His followers be evident and recognizable in how we treat others? For some reason or another, however, division seems to prevail. *This does not mean that there are not important issues of a core doctrinal nature where we need to divide*, as the abuses of many ecumenical movements have made clear. But so much of the division seen in the Body of Messiah is over relatively small and insignificant matters, as people look down on others for not being as good or as “righteous” as they are, or how one approach to an issue is clearly “better” than another. I will purposefully not mention any specific examples. This should not be, and yet lamentably, it is the common state of affairs.

After getting reacquainted with a number of ministries over the past few months in the Dallas area, including: visiting four different Messianic congregations and events, visiting six different expressions of Christianity, and having a number of conversations with ministry leaders from all types of Christian and Messianic emphasis—I am overwhelmed that God is absolutely involved in a diverse array of ministries and outreaches. This includes a wide range of activities from Messianic Jewish ministry, to the homeless, to prisoners, to widows and orphans, to the “unchurched” of society, to helping evangelical Christians who support Israel, to those who evangelize Arabs and Muslims, to those who heal the brokenhearted, and to those who even serve in deliverance ministry. As you can imagine, I *could* just be scratching the surface in terms of how the diversity and complexity of God’s work on Earth is often beyond anyone’s ability to fully comprehend. However, I am confident that our Gracious Father is not confused, and that He is presently accomplishing everything He wants to see achieved via His designated vessels.

Many of us—especially those of us raised in a relatively widespread Caucasian, Western society—have difficulty understanding the role that diversity

plays within the Body of Messiah. In some growing sectors of today's Messianic movement, so-called distinctions among Jewish and non-Jewish brothers and sisters are believed by some misguided people to actually be *more important* than the common faith we share as human beings redeemed from sin in the Messiah Yeshua! Much of this is rooted in an errant ideology where divisions *have* to be emphasized, rather than approached as a significant way to empower and embolden the *ekklēsia*. To the contrary, Messiah followers are plainly instructed, "Submit to one another in fear of the Messiah" (Ephesians 5:21, CJB), and in so doing the various things that make us different **can immediately become virtues from which we can all learn and benefit**. Space prohibits me to mention any specific examples, but simply consider the many great and positive godly attributes found within both Judaism and Christianity. Many of today's Christians know that they have much to learn from Judaism; and I know many Messianic Jews who are aware that they have much to learn from evangelical Christianity as well. If we can learn to employ our godly strengths, no matter our background or ethnicity, then surely we will be all things that our Great God and Savior wants us to be for Him as a blessing to the yet-unredeemed!

The Holy One of Israel is working on billions of hearts all over the globe, simultaneously, fully aware of what is transpiring in every heart and mind. He is very much sovereign over every person and every speck of dust in the cosmos, ruling and reigning from Heaven. He sees into the very heart of every human being, and knows exactly what everyone needs to come to a saving knowledge of the truth. But in order for this to be realized, those who have already experienced salvation in Yeshua (Jesus) need to be unified. Born again Believers should be blessed to either hear or encounter the many things that the Lord is doing with those who serve Him, regardless of their background or specific ministry, as lives are changed and people are transformed via the power of the good news!

For those of us concerned about any lack of unity among God's people: **let us recognize that our Sovereign King is in control! Hallelujah!** Nothing in the world happens without His knowledge or allowance. Let me direct your attention to some important words of exhortation from the Apostle Paul, originally given to the Colossians. He provides us an overview of the different character traits that those who truly desire unity, camaraderie, and equality among all Messiah followers must demonstrate in their walk with him. Be sure that you have not only put these words into your heart, but that you have made them a steady practice in your living forth the good works that the Lord expects of us:

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above, where Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Messiah in God. When Messiah, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these

things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, *since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Messiah is all, and in all.* So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things *put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.* Let the peace of Messiah rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Messiah richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, *do all in the name of the Lord Yeshua, giving thanks through Him to God the Father*” (Colossians 3:1-17).

Would it not be wonderful if the worldwide Body of Messiah/Christ could break down all of the barriers, see through all of the walls of contention and strife, and just function together as one fulfilled and happy community—accomplishing the work of advancing God’s Kingdom? How awesome is it when people recognize that, even prior to the Second Coming and resurrection, **that they have partaken of its power in the gospel?** Would it not be great if no one got jealous of another’s work or gifting, and simply expel joy when seeing others work for the Lord in whatever capacity they are best suited? Among individuals, groups of individuals, and groups of families, this is most achievable. But among various congregations, ministries, and certainly denominations, it is more difficult.

In terms of today’s broad Messianic community of faith, I think many of us are most aware of the fact that we possess a great deal of potential, if in any other regard to see: Jewish people brought to saving faith in Yeshua the Messiah, *and* evangelical Christians brought to a tangible knowledge and experience of their Hebraic Roots. Our numbers and adherents are rapidly growing today. Yet, because of this, a diverse array of various “leaders” and “teachers” have come forth promoting agendas other than “Yeshua the Messiah... executed on a stake as a criminal” (2 Corinthians 2:2, CJB), and in living forth the true walk He has called us to. I have talked about these different issues in other articles, and our ministry has a consistent track record of addressing the various shortcomings of our emerging Messianic movement. For the purposes of this article, I would only suggest that if Yeshua’s directions from passages like Matthew chs. 5-7 and John chs. 14-17 are not heeded by someone to whom you regularly listen or submit yourself and your family, then you need to re-evaluate whether such a voice is being *truly guided* by the Holy One of Israel.

Yeshua warns us of the preponderance of false ones at the End of the Age:

“For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24, NRSV).

Unity despite diversity is a good thing, because as human beings made in God’s image (Genesis 1:21) we all have unique things to contribute to the vitality of the assembly. He is surely in control of the universe, and in His timing all things will be brought under the control of the Messiah (cf. Hebrews 2:8). In the meantime, let us learn to love one another, and be about the King’s business. While there is diversity among Messiah followers, who need to accomplish the Lord’s tasks on any number of critical levels and on a wide array of fronts—let us begin to work toward understanding that we are all ultimately *His*. We should have all, at one point in our lives, made that critical declaration: **“Yeshua/Jesus is Lord!”** (Romans 10:9). If we can recognize the great value that our Maker places in every human being, **but most especially those who have recognized the Messiah**, then we are a long way toward the unity that Yeshua prayed for! So, let us love one another and be about the Father’s business, according to whatever He has called us to do!

Can you imagine the possibilities? Letting God be God, and no matter what our various personal idiosyncrasies, allow them to work for the benefit of the worldwide Body of Messiah? Many of our cultural or ethnic differences need not be points of division or contention, but instead need to be gifts employed for the empowerment of each man, woman, and child who has cried out to the Messiah of Israel for deliverance! In so doing, we can all manifest a unity of purpose, able to advance the Kingdom of God on Earth, and recognize that the One we so love and adore is ultimately in control of all! As the Apostle Paul so eloquently puts it:

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:14-19).

Be all that you can be in the Messiah Yeshua! To the King of Kings and Lord of Lords be all the glory!

Advancing His Kingdom, until the restoration of all things...



Am Echad Israel Tour Shavuot-Pentecost

May/June 2012

*information and details
coming next month*

KOSHER YOUR PLATE

edited by Margaret McKee Huey

It is my intention to bring our Messianic readers several timely recipes of interest in each issue of the OIM News.

Creamy Tomato-Basil Soup

4 cups tomatoes (8-10) peeled, cored and chopped
or 4 cups whole canned tomatoes, crushed

4 cups unsalted tomato juice
14 fresh basil leaves
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1/2 cup unsalted butter
1/4 tsp cracked black pepper
salt to taste

Combine tomatoes and juice in pan and simmer for 30 minutes over medium low heat. Cool slightly then place half into blender, add basil and blend until smooth. Return to pan, and add butter and cream. Stir over low heat until butter has melted. Add salt and pepper and serve. Enjoy!

Matzo Ball Soup

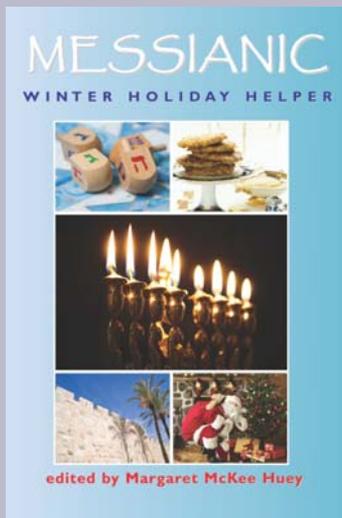
2 eggs
1/4-cup shortening
1-cup matzo meal
1/4 - 1/2-cup water
1-teaspoon salt

Dash of ground ginger and ground cinnamon

Mix the eggs, shortening and matzo meal and beat well. Add water and salt and mix to a stiff batter. Add the seasoning, cover and chill for 2 hours. About 30 minutes before serving, wet hands with cold water to prevent sticking and form into balls. Drop the balls into boiling salted water, cover and cook for 30 minutes. Drain and serve in a nice chicken based soup.

Please submit your recipes to Margaret Huey at the OIM office for inclusion in this column and our upcoming cookbook "Kosher Your Plate."

Available from TNN Press:
MESSIANIC
WINTER HOLIDAY HELPER



The Winter holiday season is frequently a conflicted time of year for many people in today's Messianic movement. On the one hand, most Messianic Believers do not celebrate the holiday of Christmas on December 25, due to some of its pre-Christian origins and questionable traditions. On the other hand, the birth of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) is a Biblical event which we all must acknowledge in some way. Furthermore, during this same Winter season, the Jewish community commemorates the Festival of Dedication or *Chanukah*. What is a Messianic Believer to do?

The *Messianic Winter Holiday Helper* is a valuable compilation of resources designed to assist you, your family, and your Messianic fellowship for this season. We have included a selection of articles summarizing the holiday of Christmas, and how Messianic Believers need to have a proper attitude toward our Christian brothers and sisters. We have included a variety of teachings on *Chanukah*,

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common traditions associated with it, and how this can be a blessed time of spiritually rededicating ourselves to God and to each other. Information on the time period of the Maccabees in Second Century B.C.E. Judea, the wars that they fought, and the long term impact they left on subsequent generations, has been provided. A few FAQs on the Winter holidays are offered, as are some delicious recipes, and liturgy you can recite for your *Chanukah* celebration.

Do not let the Winter holiday season be a difficult time for you any more. The *Messianic Winter Holiday Helper* can assist you greatly in making this a very special time for you and your family!

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