



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE

OCTOBER 2009
IS GOD'S PURPOSE BIGGER?

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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

October 2009

This year the month of October not only allows the Messianic community of faith to celebrate some of the Fall appointed times, but also initiates another start through the annual Torah cycle. For the past year, I have had the joy of focusing on the Haftarah readings, in conjunction with the Torah portions, by writing weekly exhortations for our subscribers to contemplate. I trust that you have benefited from these teachings, and that you are also developing a more comprehensive understanding of how the Father's revelation to His people has been passed down from generation to generation.

This year I am looking forward to reviewing some corresponding writings from the Apostles, as they often enhance and clarify the weekly Torah portions and the Haftarah readings. I consider it to be a great blessing for Twenty-First Century Believers to not only be able to consider the words of Messiah Yeshua in the Gospels, but also the inspired words of His early followers. It is my hope that these **Apostolic Scripture Reflections** will bring even greater clarity to us as we strive to understand the written revelation of God throughout the pages of Holy Writ.

It is our prayer that during the coming year, our subscribers will be blessed by these reflections and many of the other teachings (like some of the forthcoming Bible studies and the seasonal Virtual series), which come forth from our ministry efforts. If you are being encouraged and ministered to by our labors of love, please do become one of our monthly supporters! A great deal of hard work and study is invested to provide you with the best Messianic teachings possible, that we know will be able to minister to people long after they are completed.

With this in mind, we are still continuing the TNN Press book printing project, with about two books per every two months being produced in paperback, well into the coming year. The initial response from various Christian bookstores is encouraging, as we know it is definitely time for a balanced Messianic perspective to be more readily available to those seeking a more comprehensive understanding of our Hebraic Roots. Any new titles that we produce during this time will be going directly to paperback.

As weighty as the book printing project is—with all of the logistics involved—it is even “weightier” for us to have a vision for the future of our Messianic faith community. When I read J.K. McKee's recent blog, “**Is God's Purpose Bigger?**”, I realized that it would be an appropriate lead article as we celebrated *Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah*. We are getting ready to start a new year of the Torah cycle study, but perhaps more importantly, the 2010s are literally on our doorstep. Occasionally, out of the mouth or heart of younger people, those of us working in the ministry hear or read things that cut through all of the negative rhetoric we encounter. I believe John's unique perspective of having grown up for the past fifteen years, watching the Messianic movement develop—combined with his dedication to do the hard work required to bring credibility to our faith community—is something all should be considering. Please contemplate his thought provoking assessments.

Additionally, I have had the privilege and blessing to be in Colorado attending

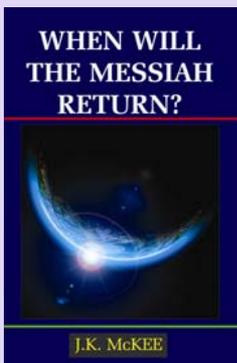
to my sister, parents, and family for seven of the past eight weeks. While a number of ministry projects have been delayed, we are definitely seeing progress toward physical and spiritual healing. Subsequently, the healing ministry opportunity inspired a short introspective blog entitled, “Coping with Life and Death,” as we know that all things work together for good, to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purposes (Romans 8:28).

Finally, we want to thank each of you for your ongoing prayers for Marsha and support for our ministry efforts as both continue to be a blessing to our entire family!

May the Holy One bless you this coming year as we all seek Him and His will more fervently!

Until the restoration of all things...

Mark Huey



WHEN WILL THE MESSIAH RETURN? paperback edition

For almost two millennia, multiplied millions of Believers in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) have eagerly anticipated His return. Many theories, doctrines, and creeds have been produced concerning the Second Coming, as well as an entire score of books. In today's world, many Christians think that the Messiah can return at any moment in an event called the “pre-tribulation rapture.” Even among those who do not believe in this imminent

rapture are those who still think that the final days of humanity are upon us. Are they? Is everything in place for the Messiah to return in the next decade, or even in the next year? Or, is there anything in the Scriptures that might be overlooked, or is not being considered, regarding the Messiah's return?

Before Yeshua was taken into Heaven, the Apostles asked Him, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). The Apostles were eagerly awaiting the Messiah to restore Israel, and guide the world back to the fullness that had once been experienced in the Garden of Eden. But much work still had to be accomplished, as Yeshua commissioned them to go out and make disciples. That work still has not been completed today, especially with the advent of the modern-day Messianic movement.

A major part of the work that needs to be accomplished is that most Believers in Yeshua do not understand who the Lord is actually returning for. They consider themselves part of a separate “Church,” often with no connection to Israel. Because of this, it is concluded that the Messiah can imminently come for “the Church,” to leave Israel behind to face the Tribulation and the antichrist. Is this a valid teaching? Are Israel and “the Church” separate entities? If they are not, how would this change our perception of the end-times? Furthermore, if a Believer is a part of the Commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:11-12), how does it affect what we think will happen in the Last Days and when the beast system will arise?

When Will the Messiah Return? is a unique book addressing the end-times from a distinct Messianic perspective. The Messiah tells us plainly that He will gather the saints “immediately after the tribulation of those days” (Matthew 24:29). Discussed are common false understandings as they relate to “the Church” being taken to Heaven for the duration of the Tribulation period, and how instead all Believers in Messiah Yeshua get to participate in the end-time restoration of all Israel.

Available now! \$17.99 (shipping to be added)

IS GOD'S PURPOSE BIGGER?

by J.K. McKee

The spiritual dynamics in today's Messianic movement are in the process of changing. I think that this is a very good thing. For a number of years I have thought that if some of us do not take a real, hard look at ourselves and what we are doing, then we will not make the kind of impact that our Heavenly Father wants us to make. I have not at all hidden the fact that much of what I have witnessed the past ten years in the Messianic world has not made me happy. We bear all the signs of a faith community that is still very young, still maturing, and still trying to figure out who we are. We do not have the kind of establishment that we need to have, either theologically or spiritually—even though these things are achievable, if we can step back and consider a few things.



Right now as we stand in the middle of the Fall appointed times, **who we are or what we are going to be** is very much a topic of interest. Today's Messianic Judaism, where my family got its start in Messianic things in 1995, often sees itself as not being a worldwide, one-faith-for-all movement. It is rather to be perceived as a Jewish renewal movement whereby Jews can come to faith in Messiah Yeshua, retain their Jewishness, and have the safety of a Jewish-friendly environment. Non-Jewish Believers can be involved if they want to be involved, but in many cases they are not encouraged to be involved, or at least encouraged to be involved on a peripheral level.

The independent Messianic movement, which has arisen as many non-Jewish Believers have entered in and have embraced their Hebraic Roots, is all over the board. Some think the end of the world is imminent, and so no time has been spent considering our missiology. Some think that the Messianic movement is to just beat up endlessly on the ills of the Christian Church. Some think that since they could not really do much in terms of leadership or teaching in the Church, that they can actually be "somebody" in the Messianic community. Others think that the Messianic movement is really designed to complete the work of the Reformation, bring all of Israel together, and see a unique faith community of Jewish and non-Jewish Believers emerge. *Our ministry has not hidden the fact that this last option is the way that we view things.*

Certainly *if you were the enemy*, and the trajectory of the Scriptures is to have a Grand Commonwealth of Israel of a single, yet diverse people as one in Messiah—where the spiritual heritage of Judaism and Christianity are to be respected, where people are to be diligently obeying God, and most especially where people are to be fulfilling His mission of loving others and expressing His goodness to the larger world—you would want to get it deterred as much as you could. You would send in voices that would get people off on diverse tangents and rabbit trails (or even rattlesnake holes). And we have certainly seen those in the last ten years, from the Sacred Name agenda, the different calendars followed, the phenomenon of Church bashing, not-so-subtle forms of anti-Semitism, end-

time hype and paranoia, etc. You would want to keep people away from a comprehensive study of the Scriptures, and having the Holy Spirit empower their hearts *and minds* to dissect the Word and adequately evaluate where God's plan of salvation history is taking us.

If you were the enemy, one of the things you would also absolutely want is prejudice to continue. You would want Jewish Believers to look down on non-Jewish Believers, and desire them to make curious Christians not feel entirely welcome at Messianic Jewish congregations. You would want non-Jewish Believers to feel rejected, and while embracing their Hebraic Roots actually become a little anti-Semitic and look down upon their *Jewish Roots* and mainline Jewish traditions. You would want males to look down upon females, and assert a hard-line patriarchy. You would want those who speak the loudest, but think the most scrambled, to be those who were heard and taken seriously. You would want those who look the most provocative and dress up in various costumes, to be the ones who were seen. You would want those who take the extreme positions to be the ones who determine theology and orthopraxy.

As I have interacted with many Messianic Believers, Jewish and non-Jewish, over the years, **they instinctively feel that a time is going to have to come where we move beyond these things.** Many people honestly do throw their hands up in the air and ask, "What happened to the love and grace of Yeshua? What happened to the work of the Holy Spirit? **Where is God really leading us?"**

We are certainly not being led to a place by God where there are two sub-peoples of God: Messianic Jews and evangelical Christians, who are intended to remain entirely separate until the Second Coming. God is certainly not leading us to a place where previous generations of Jews and Christians are demonized, and where teachers and leaders consistently violate the Fifth Commandment in denigrating our ancestors. God is not leading us to a place where we are completely neutered from making a difference in the wider world, as though "Torah observance" only includes keeping *Shabbat*, the appointed times, and kosher—and not helping people through acts of kindness and mercy.

In the past two years I have been really probing the mind of God to try to figure out what things have been keeping the broad Messianic community from accomplishing its full potential. *Some of my thoughts I need to keep to myself a while longer.* Yet a few of them can be shared. The unity that all of God's people are to have—either Jewish or non-Jewish—is to be a testimony of the greater redemption to come to the cosmos in the future (Ephesians 3:10). We really do have the capacity to bring people together where the role of the Jewish people in history can be honored and respected, and where the anti-Semitism of the past can be precisely that: the past. We really can see Jewish people come to faith in the Messiah of Israel, and Christian people take a hold of parts of the Bible that they thought were not for them. **We have the capability to be a faith community that is a real force of holiness and righteousness.** Many more than just Jews and Christians are to ultimately be affected.

The only way you can see or even think about these things is to recognize that the Messianic movement is much bigger than you or I. It is not something that is exclusively this ministry over here, or that collection of congregations over

there. No one person or select clique is in control. It is something that the Creator God has started, to ultimately accomplish some extremely important tasks. *God does have to use flawed human beings to accomplish these tasks*, and some of these people might have much smaller and more limited views of what the Messianic movement needs to be than He does. Finite mortals frequently fail to consider God's perspective in bringing things together. Even if the currents and eddies of the religious world sway too much during a five year period (cf. Ephesians 4:14; James 1:6), if the Lord has planned things to occur and culminate over a multi-decade or even multi-century period, then that is not very long to Him at all (cf. Psalm 90:4).

Right now there is a whole lot of talk on the future of the Messianic movement, and the involvement of people like myself: non-Jewish Believers from evangelical Christian backgrounds, who have embraced their Hebraic Roots and desire to live a Torah obedient life. Is this a lifestyle that is God's intention for all His people as the Spirit writes the commandments onto my heart at a steady pace (Ezekiel 36:27), or have I fallen prey to the insidious words of a Judaizer designed to bring me into legalistic bondage? Am I an equal member of the *ekklesia*, via the work of Yeshua, who can be just as close to the Throne of God as any Jewish Believer? While surely I am to acknowledge and repent of previous Christian animosity displayed toward Judaism, and high respect and honor is due toward the Jewish people—am I going to receive any reciprocal respect for the good things that my Christian heritage (Wesleyanism) has accomplished and brings to the table? Can we not all learn from one another as we work together, accomplishing God's mission?

Some of these questions might not be answerable for the current generation of Messianic Jews. Consider the fact that today's Messianic Jews are still very much wrestling with what it means to be Jewish, and believe that Yeshua is the Messiah. These are people whose families will often hold funerals for them when they come to faith. These are people who are spurned by the wider Jewish community, so wanting a relatively homogeneous Messianic Jewish congregation of almost all Jewish Believers—a “safe place”—is certainly understandable. Many people are still mending wounds of rejection from their family, carrying a great deal of pain. Messianic Judaism is still a first generation movement, and is still having to work through the basic issues of what it means to be a Jewish Believer, and we all need to be *very sensitive* to this fact. It simply might not be ready for considering a wider view of what Israel is to become by the eschaton.

God is going to accomplish His purposes as laid out in His Word, even if it takes some more time. **But if we at all misdiagnose the trajectory of the Scriptures**, significantly shifting emphases and policies and teaching styles to fit the changing market, people are not only going to be hurt, but they are going to be quite upset as well. Extreme sides will only be that much more emboldened, and divisions will continue. Reason and sanity will not only not prevail, but the unique work of the Holy Spirit will be stifled. Free will could deter the timing of what the Lord wants to be achieved.

What will we begin to see take place in the 2010s is a clash of two very similar, but very different ideologies. A **complimentarian** ideology, which permeates

most of today's Messianic movement, advocates that we are all equal before God, but we all have separate roles. This not only pertains to a couple's marriage relationship and leadership in the assembly, but also separating, albeit subtly, Jewish and non-Jewish Believers with one being superior to the other. In my opinion, it is not the ideal, because it too often encourages rivalry—and surely the curse that was upon Adam and Eve for them to try to best the other, is surely something that does not need to be perpetuated (Genesis 3:16b; cf. 4:7).

An **egalitarian** ideology, which our ministry adheres to, advocates that we are all equal before God (Galatians 3:28), and we are to all be in mutual submission to one another (Ephesians 5:21) with no one group possessing total superiority (cf. Colossians 3:11). We all have to work together, and in working together we all value and honor one another the same way that God values us as humans made in His image. A high degree of respect and integration of the Jewish theological tradition, particularly in terms of mainline *halachah*, is by all means to be included. A Jewish leading in the various divisive areas of Torah that we have witnessed in recent history is to be followed (Romans 3:1-2). At the same time, the Christian theological tradition also contributes to the Messianic movement, particularly in terms of how we conduct body ministry. Both Judaism and Christianity contribute to our Biblical Studies. Within the framework of mutual submission, we should all be able to be the “one new humanity” (Ephesians 2:15, NRSV/CJB) that God wants us to be. **All of our strengths should be able to be employed.**

From a very young age, my parents modeled to me that an egalitarian ideology can work. My parents were both partners in marriage, working together as leaders of the home, working together in the family business, and even working together in ministry activities in our church. My parents would always *fight together* when a crisis erupted, and they always informed their two children (at the time) about the ups and downs of family life. They were brutally honest to Jane and me about our finances, and were very clear to instruct us not to share “family business” with outsiders. Because my parents were in mutual submission to one another, I can count on one hand the total number of fights that they had in seventeen years of marriage. And because Kim and Margaret McKee were in mutual submission to one another, I have no questions about the fidelity of either one of them. (And, seeing the example of Mark and Margaret Huey has helped me as well.)

Some of you know that something big is going to click sooner or later in the Messianic movement, where we begin to achieve what the Lord has determined that we achieve. If this movement is to be something bigger than just a Jewish renewal movement, and something bigger than Christians having Passover *sedars* in their churches and a more positive attitude toward Judaism, then it is going to be achieved by the sovereign hand of the Almighty. Not too many of us like to hear that the positive fruits of the Protestant Reformation did not begin to manifest in significance until the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries—at least 200 years after the time of Martin Luther!

I do not believe it will take two to three centuries for the Messianic movement to sort itself out, but it will take more than weeks or months. It will not be

achieved with blogs, YouTube, nor will it be achieved by a teacher writing a single book. It will be achieved with a great deal of work, study, and sanctification. It will be achieved by us making a positive difference in the lives of others. Perhaps most importantly we will accomplish God's mission when we can each have an internal peace—that even though human people might fail us—**God Himself is ultimately on our side!**

During the final months of this decade, things are being stirred around. Hegemonies are being removed. Some are falling, and some are rising. People are talking, speculating, and theorizing what is next.

Between all of the talk and banter, not enough people are inquiring of the Lord as to what is next. Too many people in the past decade, I think, have failed to consider that **this whole Messianic “thing” is bigger than a single person or a select few people.** What this means is that time is going to fix many of the complicated circumstances in which we find ourselves. Can we wait it out?

What might we do to see His objectives achieved? Take this before the Lord in prayer, as He refines His people for what lies ahead..



ACTS 15 BIBLE STUDY

COMING IN NOVEMBER



There is some shifting going on in today's Messianic world as it concerns the unity that Jewish and non-Jewish Believers are to experience in Messiah Yeshua, and whether or not non-Jewish Believers are really called to obey God's Torah. Much of this controversy is not based in an objective, historically conscious reading of the Scriptures—but instead in shifting ministerial alliances and religious politicking. The answer is not going to be found in evaluating who-said-what, but will be found in going to the Biblical text and in accurately evaluating what the trajectory of God's Word is.

Around two decades after the ascension of Yeshua into Heaven, the message of salvation began being spread to the Mediterranean world outside the Land of Israel, and many from the nations eagerly embraced it. Was this just a bi-product of the message going to the Jewish people in the Diaspora, or was it the Father's Divine plan? What was to take place with the new, non-Jewish Believers? Did they have to be circumcised and become Jewish proselytes? Or were *all* of the Believers, regardless of their ethnicity, to come together in a new environment rooted in the completed work of God's Son? The Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 assembled to consider these issues, and fairly ruled on what was to be done.

Too many of today's Messianics refer to Acts 15 without a great deal of consideration for the context of the events as they took place in the First Century C.E. We often assume things that we should not assume, and we overlook things that we should not be overlooking. This study will critically examine Acts 15 in detail, be engaged with current Acts scholarship, and will also try to properly compare and contrast the ancient setting of the Jerusalem Council with some of what we see going on in the emerging Messianic movement today and how we can learn from these things.

Be sure to be subscribed to our e-mail updates to receive this study!

JOIN THE TNN PRESS BOOK FUND

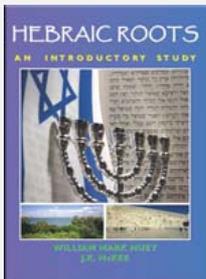


Would you like to see high quality, scholastic, and loving Messianic books like *Hebraic Roots*, *Introduction to Things Messianic*, *Torah In the Balance*, and *When Will the Messiah Return?* available from major booksellers? Do you want your friends to be able to purchase these books without the “fear” of having to contact a Messianic ministry? Join the ongoing **TNN Press Book Fund** today and make this a reality!

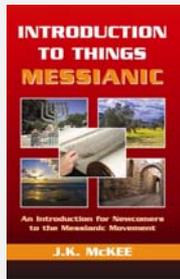
The TNN Press Book Fund is the most ambitious project ever embarked upon by our ministry. For over five years, we have been on the cutting edge preparing materials for the long-term future of the Messianic movement, ranging from introductory books to home study guides to commentaries on various books of the Bible. These publications *now* need to be able to have a wider distribution than *just* our ministry. They need to be out there to counterbalance some of the unfair and unloving materials that bring discredit to the Messianic community. They need to promote a Messianic movement that is going to be an influence of positive change in the world. TNN Press offers some of the most well-researched and theologically stable Messianic materials on the market, and it is time to see that our publications are professionally printed.

Hebraic Roots: An Introductory Study, *Introduction to Things Messianic*, the *Messianic Fall Holiday Helper*, and *When Will the Messiah Return?* are now available in paperback!

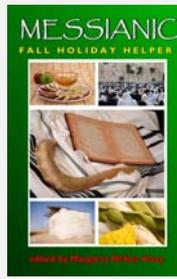
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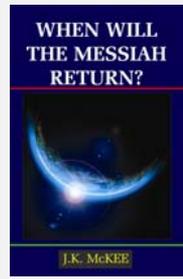
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Coping With Life and Death

by Mark Huey

Thanksgiving dinner in 1978 was a memorable occasion for my then-immediate family. Gathered around the table in Annapolis, Maryland were my parents, older sister, new brother-in-law, and younger brother—when I adamantly proclaimed while pounding my fist on the table “You are all going to Hell if you do not believe in Jesus Christ!” This was not a very subtle approach for a two month old new Believer, with a previous track record of pursuing less than righteous activities. But life is funny, because as the prayers for my family’s salvation have ascended into the Heavenly realm for over thirty-one years, my maturity as a follower of the Messiah Yeshua has grown. Nevertheless, with countless prayers deposited in the golden bowls (Revelation 5:8) for my loved ones, with only nominal if any tangible movement of hardened hearts, the Almighty has finally allowed a physical crisis with my sister to get my family’s attention. It is also getting the attention of those who respond to our many prayer requests.



For seven of the past eight weeks, I have spent an inordinate amount of time in Boulder, Colorado attending to my sister who is engaged in a courageous struggle with a recurrence of breast cancer. While the focus is her health recovery, I have been tangentially conversing and communing with her hurting husband, my aging parents, my caring brother, some close friends, and a variety of others associated with hospital work. During these unexpected weeks away from home, which coincided with the thirty days of Elul and the Fall Feasts, I have had the privilege and joy of serving my family by literally putting my life, ministry projects, and work on hold in order to be available for them. Praise the Lord that He has finally gotten me to a place in my walk where the love of the Messiah is simply manifesting itself through my selfless actions—and not necessarily my anxious words! While I am certainly not on the level of a Mother Teresa, at least the words of Francis of Assisi are being fulfilled in my deeds: “Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words.”

Of course over the years, my parents and siblings have been distantly curious about the transformation that took place in my life over three decades ago. It undoubtedly confused them that my marriage to a woman I met the first year at the church where I was “born again,” ended in a divorce fourteen years later, despite the birth of two beautiful daughters during the marriage. It certainly befuddled them that I got reacquainted at a college reunion and then married, a little over a year later, the love of my life after a twenty-one year hiatus from our one date in 1972. Then, about a year after our marriage, after adopting Margaret’s three children, our new family was ensconced in a Messianic Jewish congregation. The question naturally arose, “Are you trying to become Jewish?” Still, within four years of our new union and a failed attempt at blending families, when our personal spiritual scavenger hunt required us to liquidate our assets and we

moved to assist a ministry venture in Honduras—one could imagine the concerned family conversations that ensued. No doubt there were recollections of me as a rabid convert declaring only one way to be saved. Needless to say, I can now appreciate how confused my natural-minded family would be as they have observed my spiritual journey from a safe distance (1 Corinthians 2:14).

With all of this said, for the past two months with some OIM ministry efforts disrupted, I had much time to reflect on the past, present, and future throughout significant conversations—and during extended periods of silence I was able to pray and meditate upon the current circumstances of life. It was through numerous personal interactions, books read to whittle away the time, and even movies watched in the hospital room, that I was reminded how different people dwell upon a multitude of subjects when the fleeting frailty of life becomes real. For a few days prior to leaving Boulder and returning to Kissimmee, the recollections of how people coped with life and death consumed my thoughts, primarily because of my sister's needs—but also because I had read books I would not ordinarily consider, viewed some movies I would *never* choose, and had meaningful conversations that would not have been a part of the normal routine of my ministry life.

To quote my sister, "Getting sick has some benefits, if nothing more than to get to know my brother better!" Of course, I could say the same, because for the first time in over thirty years, I was able to get to know my parents, sister, brother-in-law, and brother on a whole different level over an extended period of time. By just being myself, living and operating in the Spirit with the hope that is within me (1 Peter 3:15), I believe that my family rediscovered that I am pretty much the same person as years ago—but with a supernatural peace that surpasses understanding. While they might not yet necessarily know some of the nuances of what faith in the Messiah means for a Believer, I think they each observed that I was not anxious for anything (Philippians 4:6), but was rather reserved in my conversations. I held the firm, unspoken conviction that the love of the Messiah heals not only the heart, but also the body.

Ironically, the highest compliment I received while visiting days upon days at the hospital came from a wise, senior nurse, who observed my actions. She pulled me aside one afternoon and told me that she noticed that I was what she termed, "emotionally available." Without getting preachy, I simply said that it was my personal, willful choice to love—coupled with the innate love of God—that compelled me to just be there for my sister. I elaborated about all of the disturbing things going on in the world today that I have no ability or calling to change. However, simply being with my sister and family was something tangible I could do in the here and now. To me it was a great blessing to be available for her, her husband, and my parents in their time of great need.

Finally, I want to report that on the second day home from the hospital, my sister told me that she was awakened in the middle of the night with a vision of the cancer being gone and that she was healed. Upon hearing this, I told her that I was in complete agreement with her night vision and that I would pray for that hope. **She quickly corrected me and said it was more than a hope, but real in her mind. I sheepishly, but wholeheartedly agreed!**

She was not coping or even hoping. She believed without doubting (James 1:6). May it be so!

In fact, without saying a word, I want to pray and claim these verses over my entire family:

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn *in Zion*, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting, so they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:1-3).

If you will agree, may it come to pass, so that the Holy One may be glorified!
Please keep praying.

Until the restoration of all things...

KOSHER YOUR PLATE

edited by Margaret McKee Huey

It is my intention to bring our Messianic cooks timely recipes of interest in each issue of the OIM News. In this issue, I have included a wonderful kosher recipe where all the ingredients can be found in your pantry!

Easy Brunswick Stew

2 – 16 oz cans of lima beans
2 – 16 oz cans of corn niblets
2 – 16 oz cans of diced tomatoes
2 – 13 oz cans of cooked chicken with water
2 – 32 oz containers of chicken broth
2 tablespoons of Worcestershire Sauce

Combine all the cans in a large pot and bring to a boil. You can add more Worcestershire Sauce to taste. Feeds 4

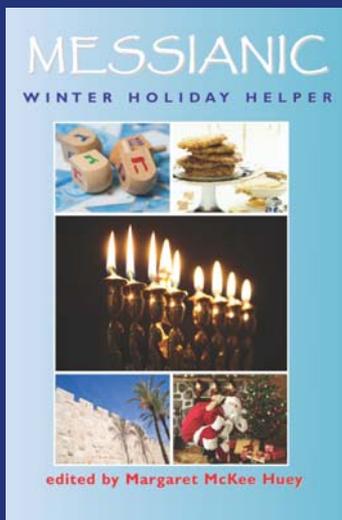
This recipe is an easy Pantry ready meal that can be made at any time, and it is especially good for emergency situations.

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

A new release coming 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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