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## From the President's Pen

by David Isaacson

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Shalom!

I hope you had a blessed Hanukkah and Messiah-mas season as you recounted both the rescue of the Jewish people from their Seleucid oppressors in 165 BCE, and remembered the birth of Messiah Yeshua, the light of the world.

With Israel in its longest recorded war since being reborn as a nation in 1948, all eyes are on the Middle East to see how international events will unfold.

Worldwide antisemitism is underpinned both ideologically and financially by Iran, which is still using proxies to try to annihilate Israel. It seems that there is a bottomless pit of evil, with darker and more brutal forces arising as each proxy is taken out militarily.

The waves of antisemitism and Jew-hatred are landing on the shores of Australia in greater measure, with a government that is more keen to placate extremists than deal with them according to the laws of democracy.

The need to pray for Israel and a responsible Australian government has never been greater than in these times, so let's remain faithful and keep our eyes fixed on Yeshua as we "pray for the peace of Jerusalem".

Passover is coming up soon. In fact what we understand as Passover is actually three festivals: Unleavened Bread, Passover and First Fruits.

How will you celebrate these festivals that recount the spectacular narrative of the redemption of the Israelites from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh and also open our understanding to the redemption of all people through the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Yeshua the Messiah?

Unleavened bread speaks of the sinlessness of Yeshua and His worthiness to be our redeemer; Passover shows that He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; First Fruits speaks of His resurrection from the dead on the Sunday morning after Passover. Each festival focuses on an aspect of Yeshua's redemptive work, enabling us to "fix our eyes on Yeshua (Jesus), the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

We are reminded at Passover of the rebirth of the Jewish nation as a modern state after nearly 2000 years. "Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord" (Ez. 39:29).

Passover is a reminder of God's covenant faithfulness to Israel and a call to all believers to awaken to the reality that God never has, nor ever will, reject Israel.



# Prayer

by Amir Atieh, Nathanael Ministries, WA

We are delighted to connect with Amir and look forward to collaborating in ministry as the Lord leads us. Please visit the Nathanael Ministries website: <https://www.nathanael-ministries.com/> and sign up for Amir's newsletter. His intercessory prayers are inspiring and encouraging. He has kindly given us permission to reprint one in this edition.



## A Prayer for Strength, Hope, and the release of hostages

Abba Elohim, as we begin this new week, we place our trust in You. You are our strong tower, our shield, and the source of our hope. Thank You for the gift of a new beginning, for Your steadfast love that sustains us, and for the strength You provide to face each day.

“YHVH is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? YHVH is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

Father, we pray for the courage to navigate the challenges of this week and the wisdom to walk in Your ways. Teach us to lean on You in every moment, trusting in Your promises and relying on Your Spirit to guide us. Let us be vessels of Your love and bring hope to those around us. “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for YHVH your Elohim will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

We lift up to You, Abba, the hostages in Israel. We ask for their protection, strength, and peace in the midst of uncertainty. Move powerfully, Father, to bring about their release and safe return to their families. Soften the hearts of those who hold them captive, and let Your justice and mercy prevail.

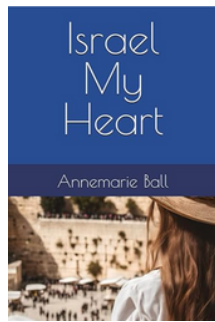
“The Spirit of YHVH Elohim is upon me, because YHVH has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).

We also pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the restoration of unity among nations. Let Your light shine over the land, bringing healing and reconciliation.

May hearts turn to Yeshua, the Prince of Peace, and may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure” (Psalm 122:6).

In Yeshua's name, we entrust this week to You.  
Amen.

## A New Book: Israel My Heart



Annemarie Ball recently published a biographical book titled *Israel My Heart*.

It is available on Amazon Kindle. Annemarie announced that her book was close to publication at the MJAA conference on 2 Nov. 2024 and we are pleased to see that she has completed it.

The book has already received a 5-star review on Amazon, titled: An informative and very readable autobiography.

“This is a beautifully written book that gives a fascinating insight into the author’s growing awareness of the events of World War Two and the start of a new life in Australia for her and her family. It is a must read for anyone who is interested in the sad history of antisemitism.”

Annemarie has been drawn to Israel and the Jewish people from as far back as she can remember. Born in Germany after WW2, she later became aware of German history and recognised how the prejudice of antisemitism enabled the Holocaust. This book is a response.

Annemarie came to Australia with her family in 1960 when she was twelve years old and has visited Israel on two occasions.

In this book, she shares what has been in her heart for many years, especially as she has witnessed the increase of antisemitism around the world. It is Annemarie’s hope and prayer that as people read this book, they may be encouraged to stand with Israel and the Jewish people.

**Part of the MJAA ministry is to identify and encourage the expression of unique testimonies, stories and themes that connect people in Australia with Israel, the Jewish people and the Holocaust.**

**Over the past 2 years we have seen the emergence of many such stories, some as books and others as written articles. We are promoting Annemarie’s book as part of the legacy and heritage of the Messianic movement in Australia.**

**However small or large, each story is a testimony of God’s faithfulness to the Jewish people and a witness of Yeshua. If you have a story to tell, please reach out to us. We would love to support you in bringing it to publication.**

# Introducing....



**The MJAA is an individual membership association, but we also seek relationships with communities, organisations and congregations for the purposes of mutual promotion and connection. We welcome New Covenant Community under the pastoral leadership of Greg Whitehead, located in Wattle Grove, NSW and we look forward to promoting each other's ministries. Greg shares his testimony below:**

I was called into the ministry in 1982, which took me by surprise! It was a call that was confirmed by six ministers and prominent lay people in a 6-8 week period. After much resistance to this call due to my own awareness of my weaknesses I couldn't deny what had happened and so finally I accepted it. Never did I imagine that in time I would embrace a first century Messianic style of congregation.

We desire to be a Biblical believing congregation, embracing all that our Heavenly Father has for us in Messiah. We have had many ups and downs with people coming and going. Some come out of curiosity, others want (I suspect) to be 'Jewish' and leave because we are not that, for the majority of the members are not Jewish.

Our motto is “Declaring the Kingdom of God to the Nations” and it is our intention to be as faithful as we can to the Holy Scriptures. We are blessed to have a prayer team that faithfully meets and prays for the congregation twice a week and I also participate regularly in the MJAA weekly prayer meeting.

Prayer is a vital ministry that is indispensable to the life of any congregation. In addition, I have had experience in a number of 'movements' over the years, including the Charismatic, Healing, Word of Faith and Jesus Movements and each one has been crucial to the benefit of our congregation.

Each person should have a personal revelation of Messiah from the new birth (John 3) to their daily walk; all any congregation can do is to facilitate that experience and allow them to function in their God-given calling.

In 2012 I was looking for a catch-phrase that would be useful for the people of God to remind them about the responsibility for being faithful to Yehovah, and this came to me: “God is looking for a people who will choose Him and His ways in every situation.”

Please visit our home-based fellowship if you are near the Wattle Grove area of Sydney. Our email address is [newcc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newcc@optusnet.com.au) and we'll provide more information.

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## Dr Ashley Crane - Teaching

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Ashley Crane has been active in his teaching ministry in WA and Asia. His ministry is expanding rapidly on the east side of Australia. He engages in speaking, teaching and seminar programs in churches and theological colleges. Ashley teaches at Tikvat Shalom and we are very blessed to have his scholarship, understanding of Biblical history and expository teaching in our local community.

Ashley is available locally and internationally for in-person and online Biblical teaching, theology, preaching, understanding the roles of the church and Israel, as well as church leadership training. If you'd like to be added to Ashley's email list to find out more, you can request this at: [ashley.crane@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.crane@gmail.com)



Ashley teaching at the MJAA Conference 2024 - an intensive day of in-depth learning



Ashley leading the Havdalah liturgy

## Towards Jerusalem Council II (TJCII) FREE CONFERENCE, SYDNEY 5-7 March 2025

Towards Jerusalem Council II is a movement started by Texan Messianic Rabbi Marty Waldman. The vision as stated on their website is:

***“TJCII is an international and interdenominational movement, aimed at reconciling Jewish believers in Jesus (Yeshua) with believers from the nations in the one Body of Christ, a reconciliation which will be officially promulgated by all representatives of Christian churches and Messianic Jews at a future Council in Jerusalem.”***

**For more information:**  
<https://www.tjciieurope.eu/>

Ashley and I are on the organising committee for this event and will be representing the MJAA at the conference with speaking and music. Ashley will do an “Introduction to Passover” presentation at the close of the conference on Friday 7 March.

Join us for a stimulating time of connection and fellowship as we learn, discuss and debate how reconciliation between Messianic Jewish believers in Jesus and the church may occur.

This is a great opportunity to let people know about the work and ministry of the MJAA.

If you are interested in attending, here is the Trybooking link:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1290097>

# Notices

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## Tikvat Shalom Passover 2025

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Our 2025 Passover event will be held on 19 April in Melbourne. Seats will be limited, so book early to ensure your place.

Bookings via Humanitix:

<https://events.humanitix.com/passover-2025>

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## Tikvat Shalom Messianic Fellowship Melbourne

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Tikvat Shalom meets fortnightly in the East Bentleigh area. You are welcome to visit in person or online.

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565547915477>. Email enquiries: [ashley.crane@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.crane@gmail.com)

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## New Covenant Community Congregation, Sydney

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We welcome New Covenant Community as a new partner with the MJAA for the purposes of mutual promotion.

Greg Whitehead leads the congregation, which is located in the Wattle Grove area of Sydney.

All enquiries to Greg at: [newcc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newcc@optusnet.com.au)

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## Pray for Lyn Brooks

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Please continue to pray for Lyn Brooks as she goes through chemotherapy treatment. Lyn's husband Terry is president of the the New Zealand Messianic Jewish Alliance. Let's keep their whole family in prayer through this difficult time.

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## MJAA Weekly Fellowship, Hebrew and Torah Study Meetings Tuesdays @5.00pm (AEST)

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Join us as we meet with people from across Australia, Thailand, New Zealand, UK, Israel, Ghana and Denmark learn together, pray and intercede for Israel and for the needs and growth of the MJAA in Australia.

Here is the schedule:

**5.00-5.15pm - Learn Hebrew!**

**5.15-5.30pm - Torah Study**

**5.30-6.00pm - Prayer**

Please invite a friend, especially those who may be in areas far from a Messianic community.

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## Donate to the MJAA

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Thank you to all of you who support the work of the MJAA. We are a volunteer organisation and rely on membership fees and donations to grow.

Will you consider joining and supporting the MJAA so we may expand our ministry? We have a place for you to use your gifts to contribute to our community.

You can join/donate via our website at:

**[mjaa.org.au/payments](https://mjaa.org.au/payments)**

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## MJAA Academy

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We are making progress towards launching the MJAA Academy, which will be a web portal with online teaching and training on Messianic topics of interest. More information to follow as we get closer to launch.

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## Your Congregation or Ministry and the MJAA

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The MJAA is an individual membership organisation, but we also want to link up with Messianic congregations and ministries for the purpose of mutual promotion through our newsletter, website and other channels. Any congregation that agrees with our constitution is welcome to enter into an agreement for mutual promotion of ministry and events. We also encourage individuals in congregations to join. More information: [mjaa.org.au/resources](http://mjaa.org.au/resources)

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## One for Israel

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One for Israel, led by Dr Erez Soref, is an Israel-based ministry that shares testimonies of Jewish people who have come to faith in Messiah Yeshua.

These testimonies are distributed via social media and have had increasing views from within Israel.

Let us pray that One for Israel will have an impact across all sectors of Jewish and Israeli society to share the gospel and influence many to consider and accept Yeshua as Messiah.

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## TBN Israel Youtube Channel

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If you are looking for reliable and up-to-date news on Israel and the Middle East, TBN is recommended to you. Yair Pinto and Mati Shoshani provide in-depth news updates and commentary on the war and commentary on the wider issues in the Middle East. Search TBN Israel on YouTube.

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## Towards Jerusalem Council 2, Israel 2025

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The international conference of TJC2, scheduled to be held in Jerusalem, was cancelled two years ago because of the outbreak of the war. We had planned for Ashley to represent the MJAA.

This event has now been rescheduled for August 2025 and we are planning to pick up where we left off and for Ashley to attend.

We will be having a special offering towards this trip. Please pray about contributing towards it over the next month or two. We will let you know more specific details as our planning continues.



# Reflections: Rabbi Paul Liberman, IMJA President

Dear Fellow Workers

In 1975, I was elected to the Executive Committee of the American Alliance. I was relatively new to Messianic leadership. However, Martin Chernoff said he believed my passion for our fledgling movement warranted it. Then in 1979, the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America was called upon to designate delegates to a conference of the International Alliance. I was nominated. Sid Roth, my old friend and fellow congregational elder, said he had a strong sense that my participation on that level was supernatural. Sid always had a prophetic sense, so I listened to his input.



Traveling with the other delegates was always a high point of the year. These were carefree trips. I got to know some of the giants of our movement, especially Harcourt Samuel and Earnest Lloyd. The meetings were always rich in fellowship with leaders from around the world.

I didn't just show up, but rather vigorously expressed my views about the direction of our movement. In 2003, I returned to America from Israel after living there for nine years. Although the Providential indications seemed strong, I wondered if my return was an indication of failure. Then in 2003, my close friend Joel Chernoff called me in my office as a stockbroker. He said the IMJA had fallen on hard times and was in need of a new Executive Director. He said there was a shortlist of individuals to consider and my name was the only name on this list.

As a stockbroker, I had an income, but a salary from the IMJA was problematic. Nevertheless, I filled the post for five years, although I was not fond of the position. Monthly I wrote essays and attempted to solicit contributions. Repairs were made to IMJA and so I felt free to leave the job and seek work elsewhere. So, why was I called into it? Upon reflection, it could be speculated that the IMJA had a profound purpose and I was part of it. In 2023, I again attended our international gathering in Israel. Surprise of surprises, I was nominated by unanimous consent to become the President. Such a position is lofty stuff. There was no way to resist; God was on the move in a way that mystified me.

Today, I wonder as to the why of it. I do confess my idle thoughts drift to the global prophetic scheme of things. What could our Lord be doing that involves the IMJA. Coincident in time, I was drafted into a co-authorship with Jack Wasson of our Administrative Committee. It has been his passion to investigate the Scriptures about the future of the Jewish People. It is all joy to work with Jack. He is so very knowledgeable and easy to work with.

In our book, "The Time of Jacob's Trouble", we pose that Israel will be ground zero for the time of Tribulation. It will start in Israel and many Christians will be called upon to support the Jewish People. It will once again be a crime to be a Jew or oppose the Anti-Messiah. Where do we stand in this emerging age of Artificial Intelligence? We are a link to the human, moral Scriptural past and future. We have been kept alive to give testimony that the Scriptures are eternally meaningful.

Despite all odds and adversity, the IMJA continues to exist. We have no worldly backing. Yet, we continue. We are a testimony to the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:35-36:

"The sun for a light by day and the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night...If these ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever."

There are Biblical time markers. We are among them.

In Yeshua,  
Rabbi Paul Liberman

**We welcome the contribution of one of our young community members, Marcus Radu. Marcus is a student of theology and a deep thinker about Israel and Messianic issues.**

Shalom! My name is Marcus Radu and I am Romanian. This is a Romanian greeting of the Lord at Easter time: "Hristos a inviat". It means "Christ has risen". We say Christ has risen and the other person replies with, "Truly He has risen!"

The third holiday of the Passover season is Yom Ha'Bikkurim or First Fruits. When we say "Truly He is risen", we are reflecting the prophetic work of Jesus the Messiah, the one who conquered death and who gives the free gift of eternal life to those who place their trust in His completed work of redemption.



Lately I've been challenged in my thinking about the principle of 'sowing and reaping' in the context of Genesis 12 vs 3, where God promises to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse".

To me it is clear that God will actively intervene to bless or curse people or nations based on their treatment of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's descendants, the Jewish people.

Despite the fact that many see this interpretation as a simplistic view of God's justice, potentially overlooking complex situations in relation to human suffering (e.g. the current war in Gaza), this verse stands as a binding covenant promise of protection for the Jewish nation, as well as a promise of blessing for those who bless Israel. It is not a formula to apply, but to be viewed in the context of God's love and eternal purpose in bringing the Messiah to the world through Israel, as well as the unity of Jews and gentiles in Messiah.

It can be argued from this verse that every government that has harmed the Jews has been judged by God. All the ancient nations surrounding Israel, Rome, Nazi Germany, the Arab countries at war with Israel, even the British empire, have all incurred God's judgement to the extent that they have expressed hatred of Israel. It is important for Bible-believing Christians who understand that God will never break His covenant with Israel, to pray for an awakening of the church to this principle.

It is alarming to see the significant rise in antisemitic attacks in Australia followed by a weak response of the current government in condemning them.

Applying the divine principle of 'sowing and reaping' in this context will help the Australian church and society at large to address antisemitism and support the human rights of the Australian Jewish community.

Speaking from a secular point of view, if we fail to protect any minority group from persecution and harm, we fail as a nation. From a spiritual point of view, if we fail to protect God's chosen people, we fail God.