

*“Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me!”*

*Psalm 25:18-19 NIV*

**Ellul 5766**  
**September 2006**

Jewish Believers and Christians  
 working together since 1963



**Nathan L. Jacobus**  
 President, MJMI

Shalom, my friends,

As I am writing this letter, the situation in Israel has improved—at least for the moment. Hizbollah and Israel have agreed to a ceasefire, and they are no longer bombing each other.

However, the conditions of this “peace” are very shaky. By the time you read this letter, the situation could have already changed.

I’m sure you have seen pictures of the destruction that resulted from the recent fighting. However, much of the news media placed more emphasis on the conditions in Lebanon than in Israel. In this newsletter, I am including images and stories from our MJMI workers and other friends in Israel about their experiences during the past several weeks. Although this was a time of great difficulty for our brothers and sisters in Israel, it was also an opportunity to minister the love of Yeshua to those in need.

## Meeting the Needs

**Simcha and Bella**, who are working in the southern city of Ashdod, wrote to me about their trip to Northern Israel in the midst of the fighting. They said, *“Just as our cars arrived in Kiryat Sh’mona loaded with supplies for the people in the shelters, we heard the loud sound of the siren. We left the engine running and ran down the hill to find cover in a tunnel beside the road, amidst loud sounds of bombs falling near us. We waited and prayed the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm until it was quiet for a while, and then we climbed back up to the car. As soon as we opened the car door, another alarm sent us back down the hill. This time we shut off the engine.*

*“In a short break that soon followed, we were able to drive the short distance to a school shelter. We passed an intersection where a rocket had just landed in the road a few minutes before, and it was stuck in the asphalt where it exploded. Security personnel were on the scene, and reporters were filming the incident. As we arrived and began to unload the boxes, a series*

*of alarms sent us down to join the residents who had been living in the shelter for three weeks. At that moment, a bombardment of rockets pounded the city as we safely watched the TV news reports of the ‘fallings’ (that’s what they call the Katyushas launched by Hizbollah that fall anywhere on Israel soil).*

*“During our visit of just a few hours, it felt like we were in a different world. There was a deep awareness that any time you stepped out of the bomb shelter, you were taking a chance of getting hurt or killed. That very same day, three people died in the nearby city of Akko.... As we waited in the shelter, we spoke with the residents and some soldiers who were also present, listening to*



**Simcha and Bella, who are working in the city of Ashdod, recently traveled to Northern Israel to distribute food and supplies, as well as ministering the love of Yeshua to those in the midst of the most intense warfare. As they were traveling, they passed by the remnants of a rocket that had just exploded in an intersection (pictured left). Above, Simcha visits with a wounded soldier at the hospital in Zefat. On the far left, Bella sits in the bomb shelter with a young boy. He and his family had already been living in the shelter for three weeks.**

## The True Homeland

Even during the most intense fighting over the past few months, *Aliyah* (immigration to Israel) has continued. In fact, a recent news report stated that over 4,000 new immigrants from all over the world arrived in Israel during the months of July and August.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, three special flights landed in Israel bringing almost 550 new immigrants from North America alone. According to estimates from the Jewish Agency, 24,000 people from countries all around the world will immigrate to Israel this year.

The Land of Israel is the God-given homeland of the Jewish people, and our desire to return home—even in the midst of war—speaks volumes to our enemies. Right now, there are many families in the Former Soviet Union who are waiting to make *Aliyah*. However, these families are struggling just to make ends meet, and they simply don’t have the necessary resources for the various expenses associated with the immigration process. Here at MJMI, we are committed to helping these needy Jewish families make their journey home.

When you contribute to our *Aliyah* efforts, I want you to know that you are not just reaching the physical needs of these individuals. While we are helping with the financial aspects of making *Aliyah*, we are also meeting their spiritual needs by sharing the hope that can be found only in the Messiah Yeshua. As they make the journey to their true homeland, many of these people are also finding their Salvation in Him.

While the \$300 it takes for each person to make *Aliyah* may not seem like much to many of us, it is an insurmountable amount to these families. Would you consider helping them today? Your gifts can make their dream a reality! Whether you can give a few dollars, enough for one person, or enough for a whole family, your donation will be a great blessing.

their stories and evaluating their needs. One couple had been married right there in the shelter two weeks before, and they had been living there ever since. We encouraged them all, and prayed for God's protection....

"On the drive home, we stopped at the hospital in Zefat, where we listened to the wounded soldiers' stories and encouraged them. We gave each soldier a book to read, and we expressed our appreciation to them and prayed for them. Ya'akov, a soldier who was lightly wounded, realized that we were driving south toward his home, so he asked if we could give him a ride. Of course we agreed, and after he was released we went on our way. Ya'akov asked questions about the book he had received, and for the two-hour drive, we shared about the Messiah with him. We sensed that this was a divine appointment, and we felt the Lord's blessed favor upon us."

## Sharing the Good News

Not only did our workers help to bring food and other supplies to those who remained in the North, but they also opened their homes to people who were fleeing from the rockets. **Israel P.**, another of our **MJMI** workers, is also the leader of Beit Hallel, a Messianic congregation in Ashdod. Several members of his congregation opened their homes, and their new daughter congregation in nearby Kiryat Gat was able to use their congregational meeting facility to host three additional families.

Israel P. wrote, "This is a very intense period of time for us here in Israel. We are facing many dangers, both physical and spiritual. It is a time of great testing for perseverance and endurance in the faith. We firmly believe that only the Lord's plans will be established. We also believe He is fully in control, and that no purpose of His can be withheld. We serve a God that can use the evil that is done to us and turn it into good in our lives."

Even in the midst of the war, our **MJMI** workers con-



tinued to focus on sharing the Good News of Yeshua at every opportunity. In his letter, Israel P. went on to tell me about the work God has been doing, saying, "I want to share the testimony of how one more *sabra* [native Israeli] came to know Yeshua. Doron [pictured on left in photo below, with a family from Beit Hallel] is a nineteen-year-old young man from Ashdod. He attended a new age festival, where he met a man from our congregation



who was sharing about Yeshua. Doron was very open, and after the festival, he came to our congregation. We talked with him a few times, and in the end he received the Messiah into his heart.

"At first, Doron's parents were in shock, and they invited a Rabbi to come talk with him. They spent an hour explaining all their arguments of why Yeshua is not the Messiah. During this time, we were constantly praying. When the Rabbi had finished, Doron



a rocket exploded less than 100 yards from their home, killing five people. As you can imagine, this experience was very traumatic for his family. Guy asked us to pray for their salvation as they are going through this difficult time. Please continue to lift up the entire nation of Israel, as there are many people dealing with the emotional impact of recent events. Pray that they will turn to Yeshua, who alone can bring their true healing.



**Guy Cohen, who leads a Messianic congregation in Akko, wrote about the impact of living in a city where rockets are frequently falling. On one occasion (pictured here), Guy's mother and sister were actually watching as**

was a little bit confused. He said, "I can't argue with you, but what can I say about the changes that have taken place in my heart? I'm a different man now; faith in Yeshua has changed me." Can you believe that at these words, the Rabbi became very angry with Doron and just left? Praise God for His victory and wisdom!

"Please continue to pray for Doron's parents. About a month ago, his father visited our meeting, and last week his mother came. We pray that God will touch their hearts. Doron is growing in faith day by day, and he reads the Bible and prays constantly. When I see what God has done for Doron, I pray that many more young boys and girls like him will come to know Yeshua."

## The Battle Continues

While the physical war may have come to an end—at least for a time—there is still an ongoing battle taking place in the heavenly realms. Our **MJMI** workers in Israel are on the front lines of this war, fighting for the salvation of the Jewish people. But please remember that your prayers and financial support are crucial! God is working through you to make it possible for these men and women to continue proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua.

My friends, we have been given a great task, but we cannot accomplish the work without your partnership. Please take a moment right now, to ask the Lord how He wants you to be involved in the ministry of **MJMI**. Whether He is calling you to send a gift for the first time, to increase or double what you have already been giving regularly, or to send a large one-time donation to help us at this time, please be faithful to respond to God's leading. Be assured that every gift, no matter how large or small, will be a great blessing to this ministry.

I know the Lord has great plans for the future, and I look forward with much expectation to the work He is going to do among His people. God is surely moving, and I am thankful to be a part of His plan. As we continue to press forward together, I pray that we will soon see the day when all Israel cries out, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

With all of my love in Yeshua,

  
Nathan L. Jacobus, President

