



Oasis

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“Haifa’s Petrochemical Plant Targeted” “Katyushas Rain on Haifa and Vicinity, Killing 8” “IDF mobilizes to destroy Hizb’allah Capacity” “All Conditions for Removal of Zionist regime at hand says Iran’s Ahmadinejad”

These and a thousand more searing headlines and bombastic statements have filled the media since the July 12 missile attack on Israel’s northern cities. As those caught in the crosshairs of the Iran-Syria-Hizb’allah-Hamas axis, we search the Scriptures earnestly for understanding and for marching orders. To what previously unknown level of faith and trust is our God calling us?

In eerie similarity to the summer of 2006, the Book of Esther (set in 5th century BCE Persia - modern Iran!) provides us with insight and instruction. In October, 2005, Ahmadinejad said “Israel must be wiped off the map.” In the same spirit, the Persian “prime minister,” Haman, attempted to destroy all the Jews. The spiritual principality bent on Israel’s demise is not rooted in Lebanon. Ancient Lebanon was actually in covenant friendship with Israel (see Solomon’s exchange with Hiram, 1Kings 5). Our war is not with Lebanon. Hizb’allah receive their orders from their Iranian warlords. The terror organization has simply been using Southern Lebanon as the staging ground in their insidious attempt to eradicate Israel. Israel is again facing the Prince of Persia. We know this unrelenting foe from Daniel 10:20.

As I write this article, I am interrupted by air raid sirens signaling the arrival of Katyusha rockets hurled at us by the Hizb’allah. This 2500 year fight is not over yet. Is there hope? As servants of the God of Israel, both those living in the land and those aligned with Israel around the

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International Conference & Intercessory Tour

Esther’s Call

March 1-8, 2007



◆ **See ISRAEL in prophetic perspective**

◆ **INTERCEDE for REVIVAL on site**

◆ **BUILD PARTNERSHIPS with Israeli believers**

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 Eitan Shishkoff

world, how can we cooperate with the counsel of the Almighty?

ONE Courageous Woman of Faith Changed History

Persia’s plan to annihilate the Jews was foiled by the courage and faith of one woman. Esther stood against the legions of hell at the risk of her life. A Persian queen of hidden Jewish identity, she chose to reveal her true identity and to go boldly

before the king to secure deliverance for her people. Here is the formula: Refusing to remain uninvolved + calling on others to fast and intercede + coming boldly to the King’s throne to obtain mercy = Deliverance.

Can we do less than Esther did? History and divine providence positioned her to make a difference. Shall we avoid involvement as the international Christian community did during the Holocaust, failing to

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stand up in protest of Nazi atrocities? Or shall we accept Esther's call, a call being handed us by history and divine providence?

How can you talk about coming to Israel at a time like this?

Perhaps this is not the most likely time to think about coming to Israel. But what better time to stand by Israel? You are needed. I hear "Esther's Call" going forth from heaven. God is calling for Esthers...those who will not count their own lives dear for the high calling of Israel's salvation and Yeshua's return.

So we are boldly, enthusiastically inviting you to "Esther's Call" an international conference and intercessory tour during March 1-8, 2007. Experience on-site prayer with pioneer Israeli congregations, exhilarating worship, inspiring teaching, rich fellowship with Israeli believers and the irreplaceable satisfaction of standing on the soil God has said will be His covenant sign to Israel and to all humanity forever.

This is our home. This is the territory Satan has been gunning for in this summer's war with the Hizb'allah. We want to take you with us to the eye of the storm, where you will form bonds with people and places, in order to fulfill Esther's call in your life.

Our Finest Hour

Though we have not yet entered the totality of world conflict seen in World War II, the words of Sir Winston Churchill carry gripping relevance. As Britain readied herself for a potential invasion by Nazi Germany, Churchill told his nation: "Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire...last for a thousand years, many will say This was their finest hour." That phrase does something to me. It makes me want to rise to the occasion.

Yeshua tells us as His disciples ***"If anyone would follow me, let him deny himself daily, take up his cross and follow me."*** Esther, though she preceded Yeshua by five centuries, decided to approach her relationship with God in this same manner. At a time of life and death crisis, she dedicated time to seeking God through prayer and fasting. Then, she "loved not her life unto death" and went before the king to save her threatened people. It is this very quality of devotion to serve God's purposes that will overcome the enemy (Revelation 12:11).

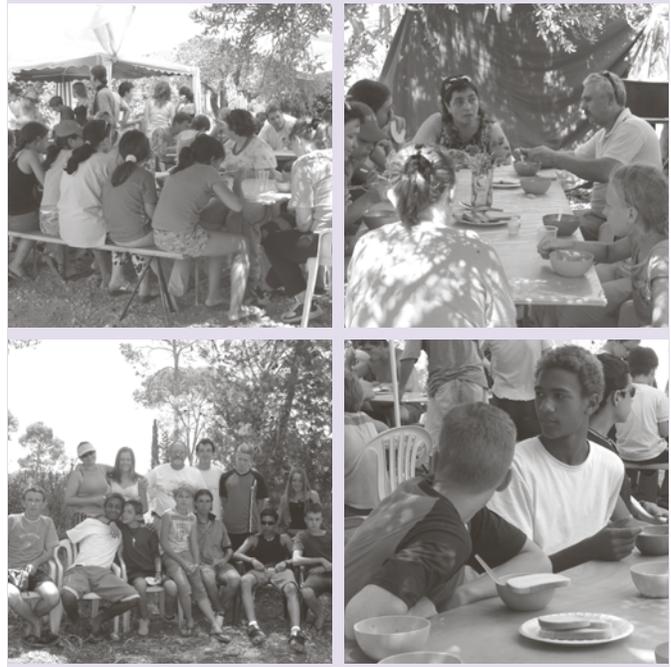
I want to issue a bold, impassioned summons to those who love Israel and want to make a difference in her future. Come, take your place on the watchman's wall. Let's make an offering of ourselves to the Lord together, next Esther's feast of Purim, March 2007. I have seen the quality of commitment so many of you have to the coming of our King, Yeshua, and to His Messianic community in today's Israel. Now is the time to answer Esther's call and impact history for the glory of God.✡

MESSIANIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH TAKE REFUGE

 Eitan Shishkoff

Nestled into a hillside north of Jerusalem, at the entrance to the famous pass between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem lies a lovely summer camp facility. What began as a summer camp, conducted by one of our neighbor Russian language congregations has now become a small refugee camp for children and teens. As the congregation's children began their camp activities the Katyusha rockets began to fall among their homes in the Kriyot.

During the following week, about 10-15 Tents of Mercy teens finished their own summer camp. Our youth leaders suggested that our teens join the existing camp of younger children both to help out and to stay out of harm's way. For the past 10 days, approximately 45 Messianic children and teens along with about 10-15 adults have been camping in tents, cooking on an open fire, taking outdoor showers. It's "camping" but it's not a picnic!✡



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Our vision:

Tents of Mercy - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.
No spectators in the kingdom - to be a worshiping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.
Come back Yeshua - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.



WHILE KATYUSHAS FALL

Marty Shoub

It was Thursday evening, July 13th; two more Israeli soldiers had been kidnapped the day before – this time on the northern frontier by Hizb’allah guerillas. Tents of Mercy had called an emergency prayer meeting and many of us were gathered to intercede for our captured soldiers and our young men risking their lives searching for their other kidnapped comrade in Gaza. Sometime in the middle of our gathering Moshe Morrison received a cell phone call – he motioned with his arms for all of us to quiet down (we had been joyfully and purposely interceding). Calmly he passed on the news. Haifa had just been hit by two Katyusha rockets.

We all stood there in stunned silence for a brief moment. In all the tragic history of warfare and terrorism in Israel such a thing had never happened before. Our silence did not last long. Almost simultaneously a cry and a shout rose up from among the gathered believers. Not a cry of fear and desperation but a cry of confidence in Adonai Tsvaot – The Lord of Heaven’s armies. All of us linked our hands together and raised them up to the God of Israel. In the midst of terror and shock our voices rose together in worship. I don’t recall ever hearing our people pray and shout with such exuberance and I don’t think I had ever been prouder of our Tents of Mercy family. Our intercession was a spontaneous reaction of trust in the God of Israel.

Sometime later we heard that the two rockets had fallen harmlessly on a Haifa street. No one was hurt and life carried on. Sunday morning I was just getting ready to head out the door when I heard the booming echo of Katushas landing. Hizb’allah had launched a rocket attack all across northern Israel – rockets that had plagued the far north and Gaza border towns were now landing in Haifa, Akko and in the Kriyot.

We live two doors down from a public bomb shelter but in the ensuing confusion those responsible had failed to un-lock the doors. Because our home is protected (sort of) by our landlord’s flat above we soon became the meeting place for several neighbors. Together we did what all Israelis do at such times – we huddled around the radio for the latest news and manned our cell phones trying to get in touch with folks to see if they were OK.

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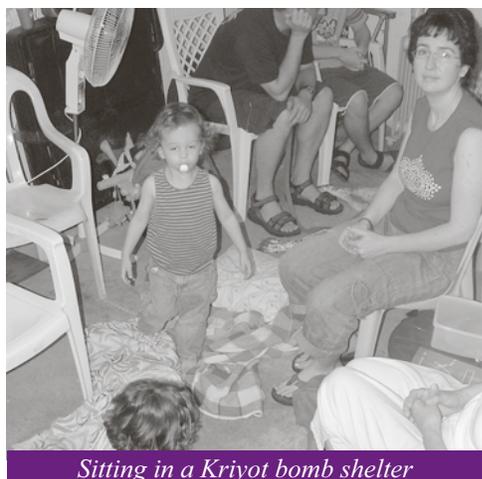
Soon another neighbor came by to let us know the shelter was now open. Our whole street was gathered together, no one really sure what was going on or what the future held. Cramming around a TV we learned the tragic news: A powerful missile had scored a direct hit on Israel Railways maintenance depot in Haifa. Eight Railway workers were dead.

My Landlord is a jovial man and the veteran of four Israeli wars. His face went ashen. His son worked in this same railway depot and his wife in the adjacent Israel Rail office building. A cell call from his son soon relieved him of his worst fears but other fathers were receiving calls with much grimmer news. An hour later My Landlord's wife arrived home. I could see this dear and gentle lady was carrying great grief upon her. My wife Sue and I hugged her to give her our condolences but we had no adequate words to bring consolation. She personally knew all the workers who were killed. She would spend the next days attending funerals and sitting sheva with grieving family members.

LIFE GOES ON

Throughout this crisis my thoughts continually reflect on my wife. I have been so moved by her courage. A Gentile - Israel and the Jewish lifestyle is still very much in process for her yet here she was so brave. No questioning "why did we come here?" or anguished pleas to flee to safety. My abiding memory of Sue is from that first morning. We were milling about outside the shelter when the siren sounded once more. Instead of retreating into the shelter Sue ran over to a near by home to help an invalid elderly neighbor cross the street to safety.

We have spent much time together with other Tents of Mercy folks that remain in the area (most families with



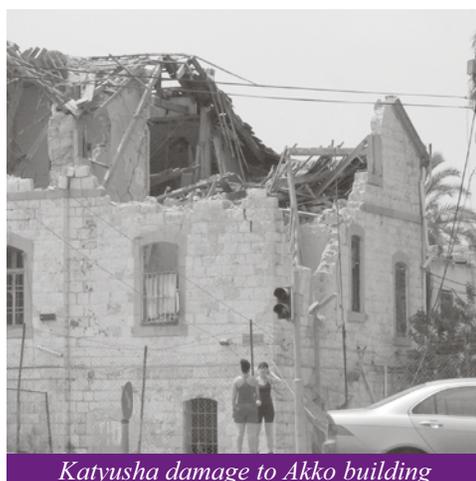
Sitting in a Kriyot bomb shelter

small children understandably have moved south). We have been meeting together to pray and worship and despite the pain and suffering all around us these times have been especially meaningful. It is not naïve to reckon that praise and worship is a great weapon against the forces arrayed against us. Scriptures such as "He who watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps" or "He is my defense I will not be moved" have taken on a new significance. Typically we have sought meaning in the application of these scriptures to our personal fights against self and spiritual forces seeking to hinder our life in God. However, these scriptures

first and foremost are not about personal application - they are the sure word to Israel that the God of heaven and earth keeps His covenant promises.

MIRACLES OF PROTECTION

We continue to hear dramatic reports of God's miraculous hand protecting Israelis from harm. Tents of Mercy has its growing list of miraculous provision. There is Svetiya. The other day she went out to get some needed groceries. Her husband was away and she left her children at home. While she was out the sirens sounded and soon after her cell phone rang - her children were understandably scared and asked her to come home. This dear lady is 8 months pregnant - she tried to find a cab but none were available so she set off towards home on foot as fast as she could. She decided to cross a vacant field by her house when a taxi pulled up and offered to take her home. Just as they headed off a rocket landed in the same field she had moments earlier thought to cross.



Katyusha damage to Akko building

to cross.

A rocket landed just three doors down from Tents of Mercy's congregational apartment in Kiryat Bialik but failed to explode. There were no injuries and no property damage. But here's the topper: One of our elderly couples who attend our Haifa congregation was inside their home when a Katyusha struck their apartment! They sustained only minor injuries.

CONNECTING TO THE LAND

When we made Aliyah we knew that coming here meant the possibility of facing such things. But somehow both then and now His peace gives us courage to move forward. My Landlord asked me the other day: "I don't understand? We were born here but you can go back to Canada. Why do you stay?" I told him we came because the God of Israel told us to return to His land. "How can we now run away?" He smiled a huge grin and firmly shook my hand. We were two Israelis meeting together at a new and deeper point of contact.

Rockets continue to fall (even as I type this article) but we remain safe under the shadow of His wing. For every crisis and difficulty the question comes down to: "Do you trust Me?" We have said in our heart, "Yes Lord, we do."☆