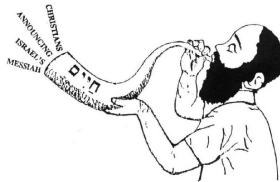


CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "CHristians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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Fall 2022
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Sukkot and the Living Water

Once again the Jewish High Holy Days are upon us. You can find bulletin inserts at www.chaim.org/downloads that are free to use for your church, family, or fellowship group. Each gives an overview of the holiday and suggestions for sharing your faith through them. Briefly these three holidays are Rosh Hashana, the Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. They focus, respectively, on repentance, atonement, and God's provision for his people. All Christians would do well to understand these holidays and how they point to Messiah, but the Jewish holidays are especially important for anyone who wants to intelligently share our faith in Messiah Jesus with our Jewish friends.

Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, is perhaps the least known of these three. If you live in a Jewish neighborhood or live on a college campus, you may see during the fall a booth being put up in neighbors backyards or even balconies or at a synagogue or Jewish campus group, such as Hillel. What are these temporary dwellings of wood, cloth, polypropylene with a roof made of bamboo or branches?

The Israelites were commanded to dwell in temporary booths (sukkot) for a week each year to remember how God provided for them when they came out of Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. A large number of animal sacrifices were to be made, interpreted by the rabbis as being for the gentile nations as well as Israel. They also were to take "...the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days." (Lev 23:40) That last commandment has been interpreted as a palm branch, bound together with willow and myrtle, known as a lulav, and waved with a citron, called an etrog. This was to remind Israel that God provided for them during the wilderness wandering and that he provides the rain they need for the growth of trees and the fruit they produce.

Water is at a premium in the Middle East. Many years ago my wife Jean and I were in Israel during January for a historical geography course. The weather was beautiful. There was very little rain, and the temperature was balmy.

We were enjoying it, but the Israelis were a bit distraught. This was not the weather they wanted during January! It was supposed to rain in January to provide water for crops and for drinking. The Bible speaks of the early rain, middle rain and latter rain. Contrary to some Pentecostal teaching, the *middle rain* was the most abundant period of rain! It was the middle rain that gave the ground a good soaking. The early rain in the fall softened the ground for planting and the latter rain in the spring gave a little extra growth before harvest, but the *middle rain* was the most necessary, and January was the middle of the rainy season.

It was at the Feast of Tabernacles that earnest prayer for rain began. The importance of rain is seen in the water pouring ceremony in the ancient Jerusalem Temple. In Jesus' time of earthly ministry there was the practice of the pouring out a water libation by the priests. This practice reached its climax on the last day of the feast known as the Hoshana Rabba, when, with much ceremony and singing, a golden vessel of water was poured out symbolizing dependence upon God to send down his blessing from heaven, the rain. It was in this context that Jesus said, "If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:37 & 38). Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit to quench our spiritual thirsting and produce a harvest of fruit in us. (John 15:5)

Try as we might, our efforts to bring the gospel to the Jewish people, or any people at all, will not succeed without the Holy Spirit watering the word that is communicated so that it produces the fruit of repentance, the realization of the need for atonement, and faith in God's provision through the Messiah. We need the Holy Spirit to bring revival.

Won't you join us in committing to prayer for revival among the Jewish people? Perhaps you would form a special prayer group for this purpose in your area? (See more on that on the back page.) May the Lord give us the Living Water (John 15:5) we need for the harvest! -FK

CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES

From Director Fred Klett

Disappointments —and Opportunities!

As the Scots say: “The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” I had plans for the summer that did go awry! After attending our PCA General Assembly, I had planned to participate and help lead our Independence Week Summer Campaign. I wrote up a new evangelistic pamphlet and had that one and others printed, we had t-shirts ready, and we knew the ropes as we had done this many times before. However, after returning from the general Assembly I came down with Covid, as did my wife, and we had to quarantine. (We had both been vaccinated multiple times.) So I could not be a part in the street work. (But God did great things! See below!) Later in July I had planned to travel to Israel. All the reservations had been made, and the flight was paid for by a professor friend who wanted me to accompany him for the last part of his trip that was for the purpose of him preparing a historical geography course. I had hoped to reconnect with Israeli friends, both believers and non-believers I know there. But just days before I was to leave, I heard a loud “pop” in my knee while simply going up a light of stairs. My wife even heard it in the next room. Suddenly I could not walk without crutches, so the trip was off. (I will need to use the ticket later this year.) Wow! Two plans gone awry! Finally, my son was getting married in France in August. Fortunately we were able to go. A surprise was seeing my son’s Jewish high school friend Steve there. I knew Steve from about 18 years ago. We had several great conversations at the wedding about God, Judaism, Christianity and Jesus and really hit it off. Steve said his discussions with our son had a great impact on him and thanked me for my influence on the process. This was a delightful unexpected surprise. Please pray for further contact with Steve on social media. Finally, a third plan went awry! The annual Matryoshka Festival for immigrants from the former Soviet Union was cancelled this year due to the conflict in Ukraine. This has always been a great time of outreach for us, but still we minister in other ways, such as English classes. (See below.)

Even though I could no go out on the street, **Rick Anderson** was able to connect with others doing street evangelism during the Independence Week festivities. These are folks from various churches he partners with on a regular basis. **About 12 people professed faith on the street** including two Philadelphia policemen! Rick also had opportunities to share the gospel with several Jewish people, including a businessman and an Israeli, along with several Muslims and numerous others! Please pray for Rick’s ongoing street work!

Vitaly Kalinovsky reports he has many new Russian speakers in the English classes he teaches as part of the local GROW program connected with local churches. Jean Klett and Linda Anderson also teach in the GROW program and have many new Russian speakers in their classes this fall. Please pray for these opportunities! Continue to pray for our Rock of Israel PCA church plant that Vitaly and I pastor as we reach out to the community. We are hoping to put on a Feast of Tabernacles program outdoors at the church we meet at, Third Reformed PCA.

BECOME A “CHAIM CHELPER!”

Do you have a heart for Jewish ministry and a desire to get more involved? We are looking for volunteer staff throughout the USA. Becoming an official volunteer means we will be there for you and your expenses (travel, etc.) can be covered as funds are available.

No matter where you are, you can work with us on a volunteer basis by spearheading Jewish ministry in your local area and at your local church. CHAIM IS MORE THAN WILLING TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND GUIDANCE! This could be as simple as starting a monthly prayer group for Jewish ministry, hosting a bible study or fellowship group with a Jewish orientation, or scheduling a Jewish holiday program or CHAIM’s training seminar at your local church. If you are in the Philadelphia area, you can directly join in outreach.

If you believe God is calling you to get more involved, please contact us and we can discuss the possibilities.



Our own Rick Anderson (just right of center)wearing the CHAIM “God is Love” four language t-shirt, pictured with some of the folks he teams up with regularly for evangelism.