

Dear friends,

There are places where events on a larger scale seem to converge as if under a magnifying glass. Metula, located in the far north of Israel, is one such place. It is surrounded on three sides by Lebanon, and the border is no more than a kilometre away from the town centre at any point. The houses of the Lebanese villages of Kfrakela, Mazraat Sardah and Aamra are clearly visible from here with the naked eye. The picture here shows the border (arrow), Metula in the foreground and Lebanese settlements in the background.



Metula was founded in 1896 by Jews after a Lebanese Christian sold them the land. Around 1,500 Israelis live here and earn their living from fruit growing and tourism. No so-called Palestinians were ever expelled for this, to put it in the language of today's common narrative.

Our Jewish friend Yiftach brought us to this place. We are grateful to him for allowing us to gather impressions of the situation of the people on the Lebanese and Syrian border together with him. Now we are here to see the destruction caused by Hezbollah rockets with our own eyes. The house on the front of our letter was hit by one such rocket. It was not an IDF position, but a normal residential house belonging to a Jewish family. But the fact that Jews live in Israel was enough for Hezbollah terrorists to fire an unimaginable 17,000 rockets at civilians in 12 months!

Metula was completely evacuated and severely damaged during the war. But just nine months after the ceasefire, which is secured by the presence of the IDF in Lebanon, most of the damage has been repaired! Ninety per cent of the population has returned, and with them, to live in the town. We are amazed! You must search hard to find obvious remnants of the war. Despite all the pain and suffering, the will to live and love for the country triumph here too.

The Lebanese towns of Kfrakela, Mazraat Sardah and Aamra tell a different story. Every house had been converted into a Hezbollah stronghold, full of weapons and rockets, prepared as a storming post to overrun Israel and slaughter Jews, as in the pogrom of 7 October before the eyes of the whole world. These villagers had completely devoted their lives and possessions to the task of bringing death to Jews.

WE ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, LOVERS OF JESUS AND ADMIRERS OF HIS GRACE. WE LOVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. THROUGH THE BROKENNESS WE EXPERIENCED IN OUR LIFE AND OUR LONGING FOR GOD, HE HAS

Now they are paying the price: every one of their houses, once Hezbollah strongholds, has been destroyed and will not be rebuilt or repopulated. The death and devastation they sought to bring upon the Jewish people has now returned upon them. How different the history of these places might be if hatred, fuelled by the false teachings of Islam, did not destroy every life.

It is just one story among many. But it sums up what Israel is facing and why it cannot be prepared to accept lazy compromises and empty words from the UN and European leaders. It is no more complicated than that. People who hate the God of Israel turn against Him and, in doing so, also against His people. It is the same hostility towards God, the same hatred of Jews, that reduced Germany to rubble and ashes in 1945. But God remained faithful to His people and saved them from everything!

Perhaps you would like to share this story when you are confronted with the falsehoods about the genocide in Gaza by your colleagues, in your community, or within your family, for example?

Orna Grinman in Germany

At the end of August, Messianic Jewish author, teacher and pastor Orna Grinman from Jerusalem was invited by the Saxon Friends of Israel to give lectures in Saxony. We had the privilege of organising the tour and visiting several congregations with her. Her message, 'Soldier Intercession and Battle Cries,' was marked by a deep love for God's Word, for her own people, the Jews, for us as Christians from the nations, and for the Father Himself. These were lectures intended to shake us awake as followers of Jesus in Germany.



We recommend watching the pastoral seminar on the tabernacle, which she held at the education centre in Reichenbach, on the YouTube channel of the Saxon Friends of Israel.

It invites you to look at your own life in the light of God's love and to learn a way in which His glory can become visible where we struggle the most.

LED US
TO A ROAD OF
PRAYER AND TO THE
FATHER. OUR HEARTS BEAT FOR
HEALING AND FOR UNITY WITHIN THE
FAMILY OF GOD, ESPECIALLY ISRAEL. WE PUT
COMING INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND GIVING HIM OUR
ADORATION AT THE CENTRE OF OUR MINISTRY. BEYOND THAT, OUR
SONGS INVITE PEOPLE TO MEET HIM IN WORSHIP. FOR THIS, AND FOR
SHARING THE GOSPEL, WE CAN BE INVITED.

Worship Journey Jerusalem

For the 21st time, we travelled with a group of worshippers. This time, in the month of Elul, we listened to the Jewish people singing at the Western Wall during the Slichot prayers and blowing the shofar at the Father's House on the Mount of Olives. It was a special time to lift our hearts to God.



Only the Father alone knows the hearts of His people, each and every little human child, and He calls them to come near. He calls them to come home under His authority and rule and into His protection and preservation.

COMING TO THE FATHER

On Shabbat, we hear Ruben Berger's interpretation of Luke 15, the Father, Abba Kaddosch, and His two sons: "When we see Jesus on the cross, we see the Father with open arms, with accepting love. When we take the bread in the Communion, we celebrate that the Father and the Son have completely accepted us. The Father accepts us. Elul – meditate on that! Am I far from the Father's house? Have I forgotten who the Father is? Am I in a slave mentality? Bread and wine: God's love becomes visible, He accepts me. We must decide to come home."

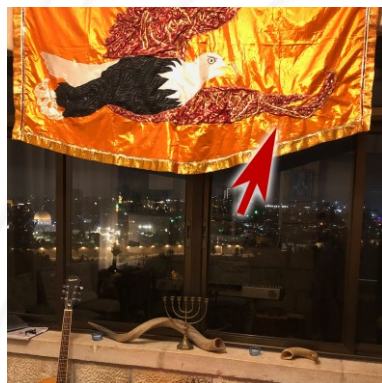
During the liturgy of the Lord's Supper, the Lord suddenly blesses me, Ines. When Benjamin Berger lifts the round loaf of bread, he holds it directly in front of his face, which is completely covered by it. In the bread, I see Jesus, who is himself the bread of life. As I look at it and wait,



When the bread is broken, God touches my heart deeply. At the moment when He breaks it, I am allowed to see the face of the Father, the face of the Almighty, Elohim, as my Father! Benjamin Berger holds up the two halves of the bread with open arms and his face is now 'uncovered'. At that moment, it is written deep in my heart: You are my Father, God, open arms await me. Come, my child, through Jesus' precious sacrifice and devotion, you are completely accepted.

A SECOND „COME!“

... we hear. For one of the prayer times, following an inner impulse, we hang up the eagle banner (picture on the right). During worship, we feel led to ask everyone to join in and pick up an instrument. For a while, the sound was so rich and full!



I, Ines, looked at the eagle and suddenly saw the outstretched hand in one of its wings: "Come, come, my children, you are My eagles, you shall fly in My wind. I need your sound, your breath, your entry into the spiritual dimension, so that I can dwell, work and glorify Myself. Come, come and become eagles that fly, lift themselves up and let themselves be carried by my wind, which in turn attracts and calls others... Come, O Breath of God from the four winds."

The wings of the eagle are red, interwoven with gold and glittering stones: "Your clothes must be washed in the blood of the Lamb, in the ever-recurring process of cleansing and sanctification, so that I can give My gold, My anointing, to you. Give Me your tears and pain, everything, everything give to me. My cleansing, healing blood is needed so that you can fly in My Spirit, in My way, at My height, at My appointed time, in My timing. Surrender everything to Me and it will happen powerfully, carried by My Spirit and your devotion, your "flight". Let yourselves be called to decide: Yes, I will fly.

Yes, I am stepping forward. I am moving. I am coming so that Your will may be done, and Your kingdom may come and You may be glorified, so that You may dwell among Your people. We want to pass on to you this twofold call to "Come!" Do not wait, do not hesitate.

EXPERIENCED IN JERUSALEM

Judith writes to us about her impressions of the worship trip: "On the eve of my departure for Tel Aviv, when I was feeling a little stressed about all the travel preparations, I asked God what I was doing here, and He replied, "I invite you to worship Me on the Mount of Olives". That touched my heart. What a privilege to be invited by the Father Himself. What a privilege to devote a week exclusively to fellowship with God. It's worth all the effort.

God brought together very different people in Jerusalem on this worship trip. And yet we were able to experience how He led us into unity in a special way through worship. We were able to touch His heart but also be touched by Him in our hearts.

For me personally, God has reopened sources of worship within me that had dried up for a long time. And He has given my relationship with Israel a deeper focus. The Bible study on the tabernacle, which we pursued during our quiet time, has also brought old treasures back into our field of vision. God wants to live amid His people, to have fellowship with us and a place in the centre of our personal lives, according to His ideas, not ours.

God began to work on our hearts. At times, this was also through friction between us in the community. What was valuable was that this did not weaken our companionship but enriched it.

As I write, I realise that community is a central concept that describes these days in Jerusalem. God does so much in and through fellowship with Him and our brothers and sisters. And so, it pleased God to expand our small worship community on the Mount of Olives. He enabled us to have several encounters with Messianic Jewish brothers and sisters. These were particularly valuable times. We were able to fill the New Man from Ephesians 2 with life in a very personal and concrete way. We were able to experience the spiritual riches that God releases when we worship Him together as Jews and Christians and interceded for His people."

*"But what is foolish in the sight of the world, that God has chosen, ...
and what is weak in the sight of the world, that God has chosen, ...
and that which is lowly in the sight of the world,
and that which is despised, God hath chosen
that which is nothing..."*

*"That no man should boast before God."
(1 Cor 1:27-29)*

From our Hearts to Yours, Your Martin & Ines
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