

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS IN THE LIVES OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS

<https://www.chosenpeople.com/inside-israel-april-9-2024/>

This past Sunday, April 7, marked six months since Hamas terror operatives stormed into Israel, brutally massacred 1,200 men, women, children, babies, and elderly, seized more than 240 hostages, and bombarded major civilian areas with rockets. Today, 134 hostages remain in Hamas' hands, and the widespread rocket barrage has lessened at times-but never ceased.

The rest of the world seems to forget the atrocities, rewrite the narratives, swallow Hamas' lies, and circulate the mantras demonizing Israeli soldiers. May we remember their blood, sweat, and tears these past six months of putting their lives on the line so their homeland and hostages-and even the people of Gaza-might be free from Hamas.

Here are two soldier stories to encourage you.

A Soldier Saved-and Saved!



Oren* first connected with our staff on social media late last summer-several weeks before October 7. Although he grew up in an atheist family in the city of Sderot in southern Israel, he found himself increasingly questioning his beliefs about whether God exists. After starting his mandatory military service duty, he began reading the Tanakh (Old Testament) he received in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). He specifically mentioned reading the prophet Isaiah, and chapter 53 deeply touched his heart. He asked to meet with us and learn more about how this chapter of Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in the life of Jesus.

One of our staff happily arranged to meet with Oren at the Tel Aviv Messianic Center. During the conversation, his face changed as he learned how the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus. He took notes and expressed delight when our staff member gave him a Hebrew copy of the book Isaiah 53 Explained by Mitch Glaser, president of Chosen People Ministries.

We met a few more times, and then October 7 happened. We lost contact with Oren for several weeks and were unaware of what was happening in his life. We prayed the tragedy of October 7 would not shake his new desire for faith in God, but instead, he would search the Scriptures, be filled with God's light, and then pass along what he is reading to inspire other young people in the military during this difficult time. Little did we know how perfectly God would answer our prayers.

At the beginning of November, Oren reached out again. He explained how, due to recent events and his military service, he was unable to stay in touch. He also told us about how-somehow-during the initial days of the terrorist attack in southern Israel, he miraculously survived. Because he was saved from the attack while so many others were killed, despite the challenging circumstances afterward, his hunger for the truth about God continued to grow. He made an effort to read from the Bible, pray, and talk about what he read with the other young soldiers in the IDF with him. When the situation in southern Israel improved, he asked to resume meeting once a week or have regular phone conversations to deepen his understanding. We were happy to say yes!

During one of our meetings, we read together from John chapter 3. When he reached verse 16, Oren-according to his own words-realized the depth of Yeshua's love for him. He asked our staff to pray with him to confess his belief in Jesus as his Savior. Soon, he began regularly attending our Messianic congregation in Tel Aviv. Now, Oren has expressed his desire to undergo water baptism, and we prayerfully plan to arrange it on his first day off from the IDF.

May Sermons & Scriptures

• May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship and Holy Communion

Sermon: Messianic Jew's Message

First Lesson: Acts 10:34-48

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 5:1-8

Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17

• May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Two Eagles

OT Lesson: Ezekiel 17:1-14

Epistle Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

Gospel Lesson: John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

• May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Rulers, Be Wise

OT Lesson: Psalm 2

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 5:9-15

Gospel Lesson: John 17:11 b-19

• May 26, 2024

Holy Trinity Sunday

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Don't You Know These Things?

OT Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

Epistle Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-17





Ruth's Breast Cancer

I imagine this might be our most well-read prayer letter ever. Yes. Ruth had a biopsy and she has breast cancer. When we hear from people, we really feel your care, but we really need your prayer. I'm proud of the travels that we have made so far this year, but the way that the hospitals are set up means we can't live our nomadic lifestyle and get Ruth the care that she needs. We are trying to figure it all out. This is our tentative plan. Prior to any surgery, Ruth is being asked to do 3 months of Dose-Dense AC-THP chemotherapy. Every week they will give her an infusion. After 3 months they will evaluate. There is another 2 months of possible treatment following that, but the doctor said we might be able to do the surgery right after that. It would be a lumpectomy to remove a 1.6cm HER2+ invasive mass and a 4cm pre-cancer mass. The cancer has not entered her lymph nodes. She is stage 1a. We are told that Ruth should be able to beat this.

Pray for healing.

Pray for wisdom in treatment.

Pray for wisdom with other home assignment stuff.

God has answered some prayers!

Last prayer letter we mentioned that we needed a vehicle. God provided us with a 2007 Toyota Sienna and it has already taken us from Indiana to Minnesota and back. We have been from Indiana to Texas and then Texas to Iowa and back. Praise God!

Yahiya passed two CLEP tests! These get him college credit in Government & Biology. This feedback helps us know that homeschooling is going well. Alasa is working on hopefully passing a few CLEP tests this year, too.

We needed housing in Dallas, TX so I could work on my thesis, but all we could find was a campus apartment for \$1,000 that could only house 5. God opened up a way that we could stay in a home for \$500 a month. All of us.

John 11:3

A friend who has been through breast cancer shared this, "Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick."

Friend's reflection:

I am sick.

That does not mean that Jesus does not love me.

Thesis



My thesis was due at the end of this semester. I now have an extension to get the thesis done by the end of 2024. I've made good progress while here.

Pray for great progress over the next 2 weeks.

Okoboji Camp with WMPL & Luke's Family





Our Travels

- We have already seen four of our supporting churches.
- We enjoyed our visits with Hope Lutheran in Fosston, MN.
- Pilot Knob Lutheran Church in Iowa.
- Living Word Lutheran Church in Grapevine, TX.

Hey Living Word Members: We distributed quite a few prayer cards during the service, but many people didn't get to sign up for our prayer letter. Please let people know that if they send us an email at luke-ruth@sinama.org, we will add them to our prayer list.

- We got to fellowship with our home church, Redeemer Lutheran.
- We spoke at a WMPL Tues. night prayer on March 5.
- We were speakers at WMPL's Okoboji Camp in Iowa.

Confusion

We had a good plan for the year, but now we aren't sure how to adjust it. The Philippines in 2025 is still the plan. Pray for our 2024.

Fun Things to See

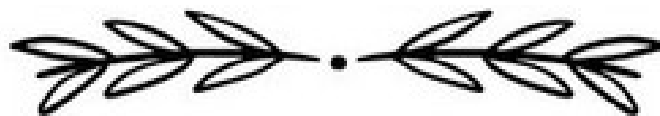


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Church Notes

- ▶ **Church Picnic planned for August 25:** if anyone is interested in hosting the picnic, or for more information, please contact Pastor
- ▶ The church copier is aging and some parts are no longer available. Council is looking into options.
- ▶ If you have something you would like to submit for publication in the monthly Briefings, please send it to Pastor Bob or Emily Daggett (emilyd@wctatel.net)

2024 GRADUATE



This year's high school graduate is Devon Snitzer, the daughter of Bobby and Melissa Snitzer. Devon has participated in school plays as an actress, worked back stage and as stage manager. She has also volunteered with stage management for Brickstreet Theater. She was also in the Forest City high school marching band as a drummer and percussionist.

Devon has worked at Freedom Fitness and is currently employed by Cabin Coffee and Sweet Emmy Lu's. Devon has taken college courses at NIACC and will be attending University of Iowa this fall. Her chosen career path is stage management. Devon has been active in her church as an acolyte, operating sound and also played a roll in the Living Last Supper and has been very active in Sunday School. Congratulations Devon!

May Volunteers

5

12

19

26

Communion	Don			
Reader	Don	Joel	Jack	Angie
Greeters	Don/Bobbi	Randy/Deb	Greg/Sherry	Steve/Jan
Ushers	Steve/Matt.....			
Computer	Dave	Donna	Rachel	Bobby
Sound	Greg	Don	Devon	Steve
Acolyte	Cooper	McKenna	Ella	Sophia
Custodians	Marty/Emily.....			
Pianist	Val	Marcia	Sheryl	Val

● If you find that you have been scheduled for a ministry time when you are unable to serve, please find a replacement and let Pastor know. Thank you!

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Confirmation- 3:45 Bday: Don Reese	2	3 Bday: Karen Jorgensen	4 Bday: Becky Pederson
5 Communion Sunday Last day Sunday School Greeters: Don/Bobbi Reader: Don Acolyte: Cooper Griefshare- 2pm	6	7	8 Confirmation- 3:45	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day Greeters: Randy/Deb Reader: Joel Acolyte: McKenna Bday: Danny Lenz	13	14 Deacons- 5:45 Council- 6:30	15	16 Bday: Sherry Flugum	17	18 Bday: Clara Zacharias
19 Greeters: Greg/Sherry Reader: Jack Acolyte: Ella	20	21 Women's Bible Study 2pm	22	23 Bday: Joel Showalter	24	25
26 Greeters: Steve/Jan Reader: Angie Acolyte: Sophia Bday: Joslyn Dontje	27 Memorial Day	28 Bday: Denny Hagen	29	30	31 Bday: Alicia Reese	