



## BERGER'S BUGLE

### *Ministry Update*

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**Dear Friends and Supporters:**

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Shalom and greetings in the name of *Yeshua HaMaschiach* (Jesus the Messiah). I praise God for His goodness, faithfulness, and tender mercies—and for each of you. It is my prayer that you are well in the Lord. I thank Him, always, for your steadfast support, faithful prayers, and gracious love that make all things possible during these challenging times. May He bless you as you have blessed me and His Chosen People (Gen. 12:3).

#### **Opportunities**

My brothers and sisters, may we have an urgency in our hearts to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel message and not lose heart in praying for the lost. It is always amazing to me how He provides these “God moments” in our everyday lives. Recently, during an appointment with an infectious disease doctor concerning my lung infection, she asked what kind of work I do (after noting that I was still working at my age). When I explained my ministry to her, she said, “I was born in Jordan and have never heard that a Jewish person would receive Jesus as their Messiah and have never heard of a Jewish person who has done so.” She seemed stunned when I shared the Gospel message with her—especially since she is Muslim. I have not seen her since, as I have been assigned another doctor. However, please join me in praying for the salvation of Dr. S.

Dr. S determined that I return to Mayo Hospital in a month for three subsequent tests—to be done for three days in a row. On day one, going down in the elevator, a senior gentleman, and the only other person in the elevator with me said, “You know what, all of us, even those who come here to be treated from all over the world, are like ships passing in the night. We don’t talk to each other. Do you mind if we have a little talk before we leave?” I agreed, and we had a conversation in the lobby. We briefly shared our life stories, and he told me he had Greek neighbors, and the grandmother would come over and offer him and his wife baklava, a popular Greek dessert. When I asked him if he was a man of faith, he responded that he was Catholic. We then shared the differences in our beliefs. As we departed, he thanked me and said I gave him food for thought. Please pray that Jim would receive Jesus as his personal Savior.

Day Two: Again, going down the elevator, another senior gentleman, again the only other person in the elevator with me, turned to me and said, “Doesn’t getting old suck?” I told him, “We’re still here!” He then asked, “For what?” When we reached the lobby, noting how discouraged he was, I asked him if he had a little time to talk. He had given up on religion. I said I had, too, and shared the Gospel message with him and the need for a Savior. He said he would think about it, and I noticed a small smile as he left. Please pray for Bill’s salvation.

Day Three: Riding down with me in the elevator were a senior woman in a wheelchair and her husband. There was a warmth and friendliness and a beautiful aura about them. He asked me how old I was, and when I told him, he said that I was a spring chicken, that he was 95, and his wife was 93. They both smiled, and he said, “It’s a joy to live as long as we have.” Yes, they were born-again believers.

I praise the Lord for these God-appointed elevator encounters. Nothing is a coincidence with Him.

#### **And also for the Young**

My grandson, Austin, visited since he recently moved out of state. I invited him for dinner, and he asked if he could bring a friend. After dinner, the three of us talked. Austin was friends with “S” and her husband. She was a graphic artist and collaborated with Austin on some of his projects. Although S is only in her twenties, she told me that she recently suffered and survived a heart attack. Her equally young husband has had rheumatoid

arthritis since he was a child. I asked about their spiritual backgrounds, and she said they had none. A neighbor has been asking them to go to church with her, but she is a Mormon, and they didn't think that was a good idea. I shared the Gospel with her, and she was very receptive. I advised her to look for a Bible church to attend. She said she would share everything we had talked about with her husband. Please pray that the seed that was planted will come to fruition in her and her husband's lives and for their healing.

### **Purim: The Feast of Lots**

By the time you receive this letter, our Messianic fellowship, *Tikvah BaMidbar* (Hope in the Desert), will have celebrated Purim: The Feast of Lots. The festival of Purim is celebrated every year on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar (which corresponds with our month of March). It is one of the most joyful Jewish holidays, commemorating a time when Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. The account of the festival is written in the Book of Esther, called the "Megillah" or scroll. It is unusual in that it is the only book of the Bible that does not contain the name of God. However, we can see His hand of promise, protection, and providence on every page. The book of Esther is read during this annual holiday of feasting and joy, and such has been the custom. Those listening are encouraged to boo, hiss, stamp their feet, or rattle gragers (noisemakers) whenever Haman's name is read so that his name is blotted out. Feast goers wear costumes portraying the main characters in the Book of Esther or other creative ones for children. Another reason for wearing costumes on Purim is to minimize the embarrassment and recognition of the poor who can stretch out their hand to collect charity on that day. Traditional treats on Purim are *hamantaschen*, triangular fruit-filled cookies representing Haman's three-cornered hat.



### **Passover Seder 2024**

I praise God that we will celebrate our 29th Messianic Passover Seder on April 12, 2024. As always, the event will be held at the Orange Tree Golf Resort, 10601 N 56 ST, Scottsdale, AZ. It is both an evangelistic outreach to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and unbelieving Gentiles and a teaching opportunity for believers about the first feast of Israel. Jewish people have been celebrating Passover for 3,500 years. We're also told this in Exodus 12:14: *So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.* The Passover commemorated God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but it also pointed to the coming Deliverer and Savior of all people—*Yeshua HaMaschiach*, Jesus the Messiah. John the Baptist announced that Jesus was *The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* (John 1:29). Paul wrote, *Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us* (1 Cor 5:7). Peter identified Jesus as *of a lamb without blemish and without spot* (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus fulfilled this divinely-ordained prophetic picture. He is our Passover Lamb. Celebrating Passover as a fulfillment of prophecy is an honor and a privilege. We would love to have you join us if you are in the area. For tickets, please go to [www.hopeinthedesert.org](http://www.hopeinthedesert.org).

### **Thank you!**

Thank you, always, for your faithfulness and steadfastness in standing with me for the salvation of Israel. May we continue to rejoice together in God's indescribable gift to us—Jesus!

In Messiah's love and mine,

Violette Berger

As the Lord leads, please include a note referencing all future gifts for **Violette Berger** to:

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