

The Apple of His Eye Mission Society

July 2021 e-newsletter



And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom. 8:28

FREED FROM THE FIRE PLACE

BY STEVE COHEN

Did you ever get the “fixer-upper” bug? During this Covid era, Nancy and I have enjoyed watching TV programs showing updates and upgrades made to homes. Of course that gave us some ideas of our own. One project was to enhance our fireplace from plain gas logs to a nicer option. We did our homework, found out what we wanted and ordered a unit to fit in our fireplace. That was January, 2021. We were told it would take six weeks for production.

Six months later, after a lot of frustrating calls asking when it would come, we were finally told that all was ready for installation. We booked the installer, he picked up the parts and began the installation. A couple of hours into the process, he called us aside to inform us that the part specifically made for our fireplace would not fit even though he had sent the exact measurements. More frustration was added on top of what had gone on earlier.

So we moved on and I tried another fireplace shop in Austin. I asked if they could send someone to measure so we could get it right the second time. Mark, an independent contractor, was referred to us and he came to our home. A fine gentleman who took great care to

make sure we got what was needed. He is a master craftsman working on our small project.

While he was measuring and inspecting, the conversation turned from fire in places to eternal fire in a place that awaited those outside of faith in Jesus. Our conversation wended from the Bible, to God and then to Jesus. Mark had a solid base of information but had not trusted Jesus for salvation. I shared my salvation story with him. Then I told him that God had a funny way of making His divine appointments. He brought us to Georgetown in need of help to upgrade our fireplace. This ultimately led him enter our home that we could tell him he Gospel.



I shared, “Mark, did you know that for God so loved you? He sent His only begotten son, so that if you believe in Jesus you will not perish but have ever lasting life!” (John 3:16).

The Lord was working on his heart. I asked if he wanted to receive God’s gift of salvation he said, “Yes!” We prayed together a simple prayer of confession of sin and thankfulness for God’s promise of salvation through faith in Jesus. Tears were flowing that afternoon as another soul was snatched from the pit of fire. Mark’s name is now inscribed in the Book of Life for a promised blessed eternity. Please pray as he grows in his new faith in Jesus.

The lesson: when things go terribly wrong, perhaps God is just setting the stage to bring someone into your life who needs to hear the life-saving words of salvation through our Messiah. Watch for it!

Spiritual Warfare: Life and Career Lessons



As I reflect on my life having recently reached the age of 68, and within those 68 years having reached the 40th anniversary of my ordination as a missionary, mission executive, pastor, and currently as a Bible Teacher to Israel, it amazes me at how much of that time I have spent battling Satan and the spiritual warfare he has attempted to inflict on my life and career.

So, what is it that I have learned about Spiritual Warfare? I have learned that you never, ever, underestimate that Satan is real. That Peter sums it all up for me when he says, in 1 Peter 5:8-11, *Keep your mind clear, and be alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion as he looks for someone to devour. Be firm in the faith and resist him, knowing that other believers throughout the world are going through the same kind of suffering. God, who shows you his kindness and who has called you through Christ Jesus to his eternal glory, will restore you, strengthen you, make you strong, and support you as you suffer for a little while. Power belongs to him forever. Amen.*

Using Peter's instructions for Christians above, here are some life and career lessons I have gained over the past 40 years of ministry and 68 years of life:

1. The Bible is a book about God . . . not Satan. It's His Word! (Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21)
2. God reigns . . . even over Satan! (Colossians 2:15)
3. Satan and his forces . . . are real! (Genesis 3:15)
4. Satan is . . . a defeated enemy! (See Christ's death and resurrection)
5. Satan, however, is not my biggest problem . . . I am! (Ephesians 2:1-3)
6. Satan celebrates when I battle him . . . on my own without God's armor! (Ephesians 6:10-20)
7. Spiritual Warfare is Satan's attempt to . . . deceive and divide me as a child of God! (1 Peter 5:8)
8. Never see myself in this battle . . . as being on the defensive, God is on my side! (Ephesians 6:11, 13-14)
9. Always see myself in this battle . . . as being of the offensive, God is on my side! (Ephesians 11, 13-14)
10. Satan battles against me because I am God's . . . witness to the world! (Ephesians 6:10-20)

In next month's AOHE E-Newsletter, I intend to share with you some real-life examples of this spiritual warfare and how these life and career lessons helped me to overcome some significant challenges in my life and mission ministry career.

In His service . . . and yours,

Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner
Bible Teacher to Israel
robert.roegner@appleofhiseye.org

In the USA: +1 314-640-9558
In ISRAEL: +972 58-4026778



NanC's Corner

Heart Disease

“As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man.” Proverbs 27:19



Grandson grad Andy

What would you do if you could get away with it?

That will expose your heart!

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Proverbs 4:23

How many times have I heard: Follow your heart! Your heart will lead you. Give him/her your heart! The heart knows what it wants. Etc.... Oh, my goodness, what does your heart know? Selfish desires, vengeful responses, lustful choices, and on and on. Where will your heart lead? To spontaneous decisions with no reasoning, based on a moment's desire. Give him/her your heart? He/she may/will break it or lead it astray from the goodness of God, family, morality, and on and on. What does God tell us? “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is the way of death.” Proverbs 16:25

“I have hidden your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” Psalm 119:11

“Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path” Psalm 119:105

I'm so thankful that I am an American. My grandparents immigrated from Hungary because of the freedoms we have here, because of the democracy we share and believe in.

Steve and I always carry a card that declares the 1st Amendment of the Constitution: Freedom of Speech. We have the freedom to share the gospel, to win others to a saving knowledge of Y'shua; but we do not have the right to abuse that freedom. Because of that freedom, three crosses were burned on the farm of my grandparents, targeting them as Jews and foreign.

It is depraved, disrespectful and irresponsible to falsely yell fire in a crowded room, or tell people that our water system is poisoned, or gossip, slander, etc. just because we have the right! There are restrictions and responsibilities with our freedoms. But so many of our freedoms are threatened. Threatened from within.

The same is true of our spiritual walk. It is threatened from within via the heart. We must guard our hearts. And we must teach our children to do the same. Through the sacrifice of Y'shua for our freedom from sin, we too have responsibilities. We do not need permission to read God's Word or to worship, and we can make daily choices for

ourselves and live without fear of damnation. We are not bound by any man or system. But we do have responsibilities. Our heart would love to sit at home on Sundays and stream when we are fully capable of attending services. Our hearts will tell us not to share the gospel – after all we don't want to offend anyone. Our hearts will keep us from reading the Bible, forsaking wrong groups, joining Bible studies or small groups. Our hearts will justify our temper, bad language, secret sins, unforgiving spirits, and pride.

This is where we need to call upon the One who will help us in our walk with Jesus: The Holy Spirit. “However, when the Spirit of truth comes, **He will guide you into all truth.** For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13 It is the work of the Holy Spirit to draw us to Y'shua and guide our walk. He wants you to be sensitive to his voice and ask for His help in discernment. What a comfort it is that we have God in us, guiding us and giving us wisdom for our lives – use Him!! Don't neglect Him. Romans 6:1 is one of my favorite verses: “What! Shall we continue to sin that grace may abound?! God forbid! How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein??” Don't you just love Paul? He doesn't mix words ☹️ The Bible also teaches that “it is with the heart man believes and with the mouth he confesses salvation”. Romans 10:10-17 Turn your heart to the only one who can help, guide, forgive ALL of your sins and give you eternal life: Y'SHUA (his name means salvation).

It's fun to learn and grow our faith! Blessings!

love, from my heart, nanC

(If this article has blessed you – share it)

Do you have a prayer request? Share them with us. nancy.cohen@appleofhiseye.org We would love to hear from you and how God is blessing your life

A Study on Prayer - Part 1 by ross heinricy

Matthew 6:5-18, Luke 11:1-13, Matthew 7:7-12, Luke 18:1-14, 1 Kings 18:20-39,
1 Kings 19:1-12, Isaiah 6:1-8; John 10:22-30

I. The Mystery of Prayer - "Meetings with God include ecstasy and joy, or withdrawal or silence: always they include the mystery." P. Yancey

What is it, how do you do it, does it work, how does it work? Why does it work sometimes and other times nothing? What is the true purpose of prayer? What does it do for God?

British pastor Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "Of all the activities in which the Christian engages, and which are part of the Christian life, there is surely none which causes so much perplexity, and raises so many problems, as the activity which we call prayer."

A. Prayer is a basic human response.

- The reason why we pray is simply that we cannot help praying. William

James

- b. Prayer is a built in God given instinct that is unexplainable except to say

God made us this way. Ill: migratory pattern of birds and butterflies.

- c. Prayer puts us in an awkward quandary: we have the desire but not the

knowledge. We have the compulsion and the compelling, but lack the understanding. R. Heinricy

- d. George Buttrick said that to some people prayer is, "a spasm of words lost

in a cosmic indifference."

B. Prayer is a universal human practice - "Prayer is universal because it speaks to some basic human need." Phil Yancey. Though the need and desire to pray is universal the practice and method are as diverse as humanity and the cultures and religions of the world. While most people look at religion's as being fundamentally the same and superficially different, the true student of theology will with 100% certainty tell you that religions are superficially the same and fundamentally different.

*Ill: 3 different branches of the Lutheran Church: LCMS, Wisconsin, ELCA
10 different branches of the Baptist faith: Primitive, Missionary, Independent,
Southern, Seventh Day, Landmark, Free Will, Northern, General, Regular, and American.*

- Different prayer practices
 - i) Judaism - three times a day; morning, afternoon, and evening.
 - ii) Islam - five times a day. The five daily prayers include: Fajr (Sunrise prayer), Dhār (noon prayer), Asr (afternoon prayer), Maghrib (sunset prayer), and Ishan (night prayer).
 - iii) Catholic - Hail Mary's

- iv) Hindu - chanting, mantra's, yoga, meditations
- v) Buddhists - om's, meditations, mantras
- vi) Christians - whatever, whenever and wherever
 1. When it comes to prayer, we are all beginners.
 2. Prayer, like all good things, requires discipline
 3. Prayer is much more a privilege than a duty

C. Three main assumptions of a praying person - page 79 "Prayer", Philip Yancey

- God exists
 - i) Henri Nouwen, "to pray is to walk in the full light of God, and to simply say, without holding back, 'I am human, and you are God'".
 - ii) In one powerful and timeless moment prayer reveals the glorious greatness of God while also revealing the utter weakness of man.
- b. God is capable of hearing our prayers
 - i) Prayer is a declaration of dependence on God.
- c. God cares about our prayers - "The most important purpose of prayer may be to let our true selves be loved by God."

For your prayers this month:

For Bob & Kristi as they build their support for service in Israel

For Mark L. as he grows in his new faith in Y'shua

For Jordan M. as she takes on new responsibilities as itinerary coordinator

For Steve as he prepares three teaching sessions each week

For health for our staff

For the peace of Jerusalem and all of Israel through the Prince of Peace

For Jordan P. as he returns to seminary studies for his 4th year in Ft. Wayne

For those we know who have been suffering with Covid

For unsaved family members and friends to be found in Christ

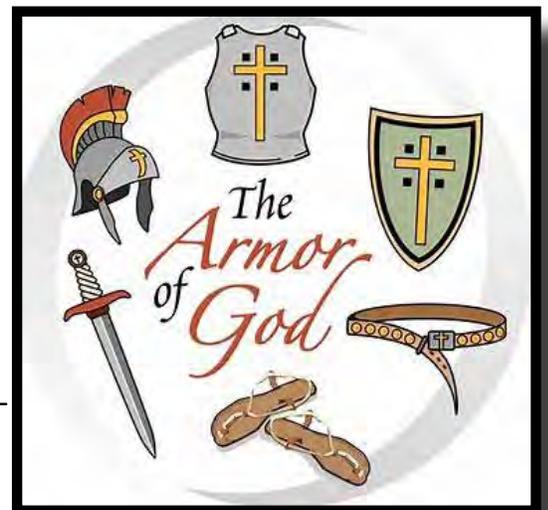
THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE By Kristi Roegner

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7 ESV
There is a spiritual battle raging around us every day of our lives. Satan is constantly attacking, hurling lies, and trying to distract us from God's plan. He doesn't want us to be who God made us to be, to step into our calling, or to share the Gospel with others. God promises us that when we resist the devil, he will flee. We should actively fight off Satan's assaults. Think about it. If someone snuck up and attacked you, you wouldn't simply let them hurt you. You'd fight back aggressively, doing everything possible to get away safely. Fighting a spiritual battle isn't any different. You must aggressively resist the devil's attacks.

Take a moment to consider the spiritual battle(s) in which we are engaged. The eternity of us, our loved ones, and others is at stake. God has given us ways in which to fight the enemy, and He tells us we need to be protected with the full armor of God to take a stand against the devil's schemes. It is both our best defensive gear and offensive weapons:

- The **belt of truth** – though Satan is the father of lies, with God's truth as our focus, Satan's lies will not cause us to fall; and God will enable us to spread the truth of the Gospel.
- The **breastplate of righteousness** – helps protect us from Satan's attacks. As we seek to be conformed to God, we make better choices. Being right with God keeps our hearts from being soiled with sin.
- **Shoes fitted with readiness from the gospel of peace** – God's peace keeps us grounded in the spiritual battles of life and helps us carry the Gospel message wherever He leads.
- The **shield of faith** – the closer we stay to God, the more we trust Him and the less we doubt. Consistently nurturing our faith is an essential part of our armor maintenance.
- The **helmet of salvation** – guards and protects us from the endless lies and mind games that Satan uses, and directs our thoughts toward our hope in Christ.
- The **sword of the Spirit** – our main offensive weapon. Through using the Word, the Spirit can crush Satan's schemes, just as He did when Jesus was tempted.
- And **prayer** – the source of true power, for it's through prayer that we ask God to come to our rescue, send spiritual reinforcements, and help win each skirmish!

The Christian life is not for the faint of heart. Fulfilling His purpose in life will require our going into battle, often directly into the enemy's territory. It sounds scary, but God doesn't ask us to go alone or unprotected. He goes with us to spread His message and accomplish His mission. With God's armor in place, we *can* resist the devil. The battle belongs to the Lord. Christ already obtained the ultimate victory, and praise God that Satan can't undo that fact!





REFLECTIONS FROM A VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

- BY STEFANIE RISTOK

“There is a season for everything and a time for every delight and event or purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

There is a time for everything. This Bible verse came up often during my time as a volunteer here in Israel. At Immanuel Church, we experienced many different seasons in the last six months. There was a time of waiting for a visa, a time of quarantine, a time of lockdown, a time of basic cleaning and organizing, a time of opening up again and building new relationships. I didn't expect to experience a time of war, too.

In the last months I learned once again to know my season and trust in God's timing. I am very happy to now be in the season when the church is open for worship and we can meet with different groups. The women's group began meeting again in May. It is a mixed group, with women from the age of 19 up to 60 years of age. This makes it very special for me, and I think we can learn a lot from each other. We sing, read from the Bible, share prayer requests, and then pray together. It is a blessing how open and honest the women are with each other. This openness is something I have generally experienced in Israel.

A brief conversation with a stranger can quickly end in a talk about faith or other deep topics. The people here do not keep each other at a distance about personal opinions as much as people in Germany (where I am from) do.

I am also involved in the children's church at Immanuel. In Judaism, the children are often taught through questions. Their teachers ask them difficult questions. They then look up different verses in the Hebrew Bible, and seek different points of view to throw more light on a subject. Jesus did this, too, when He was a child in the temple. “Three days later they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed by his intelligence and his understanding and his answers.” (Luke 2:46-47). Both children and adults learn from seeking answers to heavy questions. We should not be satisfied by standard answers, but study the Bible verse by verse. I think, in this point, we can learn quite a lot from the Jewish culture.

I am thankful to have experienced Passover while in Israel. I was invited to a Seder dinner hosted by a religious Jewish woman, and was impressed with all the symbolic meanings shared during the dinner. A week later, I also gladly learned about the meaning for us Christians during a “Christ in the Passover” presentation that my friend (who works with Jews for Jesus) did for the Young Adults' group at Immanuel. I find it interesting to learn more about the Jewish culture, seasons and celebrations; and to see the connections they have to Christianity.

I've loved my time in Israel! I've learned so much that will stay with me when I head back to Germany. I pray God will continue to instill in me a desire to share the Good News with Jewish people I meet throughout life.

? DID YOU KNOW?

The name Cohen means priest in Hebrew?

The Cohens are of the tribe of Levi.

That Israel is testing all Cohens to check their DNA for a direct line to Aaron?

That Israel is training the Cohens for the ritual of sacrifice?

That the name Cohen is also translated Caan, Kohen, Cohan, Cohn, Kohn, Kahn, Kohane?

If you have a question or thought to explore or remark, please email:

steve.cohen@appleofhiseye.org or
nancy.cohen@appleofhiseye.org



COHEN



Jordan Merrifield
National Itinerary
Coordinator

We are now open to come to your church to speak!

Since our beginnings in 1996, we have given presentations in over 1,800 churches. As we move through this Covid era, we are trusting the Lord to open up for churches and are planning our calendars on the assumption that regular services can take place.

Jordan Merrifield is our new itinerary coordinator and she is working on our presentation schedule for 2022 already.

If you would like to have your church considered for one of our presenters to be with you, please ask your pastor to call Jordan at:

636-326-4040 ext 2

Presentations include:

- The Power of Pentecost
- The Fall Festivals of Israel
- Y'shua the Light of the World
- Unwrapping Romans 11
- To the Jew First
- Our Jewish Roots
- The Jewish evangelism seminar
- Winsome Witnessing





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HOLY LAND! (For 2021 and Beyond)

The Apple of His Eye Mission Society has two different ways you can consider serving through VOLUNTEER opportunities in Israel, God's Holy Land. Both involve becoming a part of the T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Accomplishes More), working in partnership with Bob and Kristi Roegner, Bible Teachers in Israel, at Immanuel Church Lutheran in Tel Aviv-Yafo.



Immanuel Church Lutheran
in Joppa (Tel Aviv)

FIRST, consider serving as a short- or long-term Volunteer . . . opportunities exist for anywhere from 6 months to two years! If you are interested, a volunteer program application, a volunteer program description, and a volunteer program job description are available.

SECOND, consider bringing a Mission Team from your congregation to serve in outreach opportunities . . . a Mission Team of 6-12 people for a period of 10-12 days in the Holy Land! These days will not only include activities to share Jesus as Messiah, but

also days built into the schedule to visit places like Galilee, the Dead Sea, and of course, Jerusalem.

Both Mission Opportunities include training from the AOHE in areas like: The Land of Israel Today, Jewish Religion, Jewish Culture, and sharing Y'shua as Messiah in Israel.

Costs associated with both short- or long-term Volunteers and Mission Teams, are the responsibility of each individual serving. In both cases, assistance and information from AOHE is available on creating partnerships, doing deputation, and fundraising to support your mission opportunity.

If interested, please contact either:

Steve Cohen, Founder and Director of AOHE, at 1-636-326-4040 ext. 1 . . . steve.cohen@appleofhis-eye.org.

OR

Robert M. Roegner, Bible Teacher to Israel, at +972 58-4026778 . . . robert.roegner@appleofhiseye.org.



This is a paid advertisement from our web developer



- WEBSITES
- ECOMMERCE
- ELEARNING

We help you...

Captivate + Engage + Sell

Let us build something for you!

www.jpinteractive.com (877) 469-0633

Parents:

Kidz Korner is for your family and your church family. Feel free to print and use our materials in these settings!



Kidz Korner! 

Hey kidz, ??guess?? What!
we have a story just for you!!

Have Mom  or Dad 

Go to our web page. There is a
Bible story just for you! 