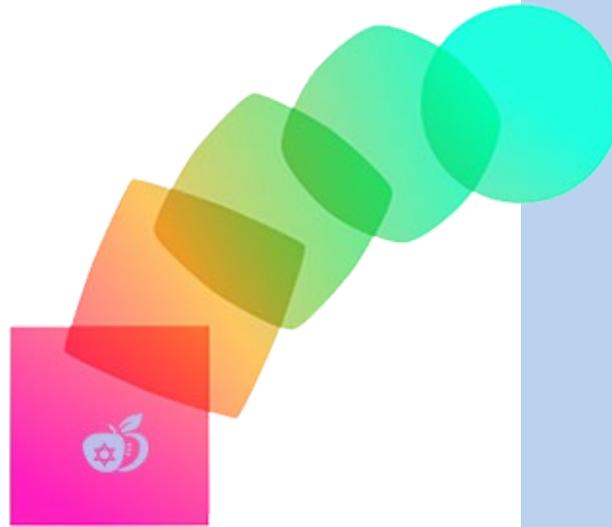




Apple of His Eye
Established 1996

Newsletter

September 2021



Renew Restore Replenish

Replenishing the Storehouse

Steve Cohen

Shalom dear friends in Messiah!

The Jewish New Year, 5782, began on the evening of September 6, 2021. The shofar sounded to mark a new beginning of restoration in our relationships with one another and with the Lord.

At this season, Israel came up to the temple in Jerusalem and replenished the storehouses. This faithful giving enabled the priests to minister for yet another season.

On behalf of all of us at Apple of His Eye, we are seeking your help to replenish the Apple of His Eye storehouse following a very busy summer.

Please visit our secure giving portal at www.appleofhiseye.org/support/give to donate and see all the ways you can help.

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Continued...Our 25th Year

We also prayerfully ask that your church include us in their missions budget giving.

Due to COVID, we are at 62% of our budgeted support for the year. We want to advance the cause of the Gospel because time is short and lost Jews and Gentiles are facing a Christless eternity.

Your support now is key as we return to service in the United States and Israel. Between these two countries there are over 12 million Jewish people, the majority of which do not know Jesus as their messiah...yet!

We Are Now Available to Speak at Your Church!

Since our beginning in 1996, we have given presentations in over 1,800 churches around the United States and Europe.

As we move through the COVID era, we are trusting the Lord to open churches for us to speak in. We are now solidifying our speaking calendar for 2022-23.

Schedule an Apple of His Eye team member to speak in your church by contacting our itinerary coordinator, Jordan Merrifield. Or just ask your pastor to call us!

Our 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
- Jewish Evangelism Seminar
- Winsome Witnessing

Email Jordan: jordan.merrifield@appleofhiseye.org

Phone Jordan: (636) 326-4040, ext. 2.



Compassion Fatigue?

Steve Cohen

Compassion fatigue is a term that describes the physical, emotional, and psychological impact of helping others — often through experiences of stress or trauma. Compassion fatigue is often mistaken for burnout.

Since the beginning of this COVID Era, we have been bombarded with talking heads and endless debates over openings and closing, to vaccinate or not, masking up or masks off, and the unimaginable stresses of dying, death, ventilator shortages and not being able to be with loved ones at their hour of need. Yes, this is a pandemic of epic proportions and can lead to compassion fatigue.

Let us consider Jesus as He enters into the fray of this world. We, His disciples, are authorized through the power of the Holy Spirit to minister to those who are harassed and helpless even as He did.

Look around you and your sphere of influence. Can you see hurting, helpless, hopeless people who are struggling to make ends meet and thirsty for hope and help? Jesus went among the people, all the people: the lame, the sick, the



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lepers, the sinners and brought healing to them. More importantly he brought hope to them. He had compassion, a deep loving compassion.

It is easy to have compassion for someone who is very close to us, but what about our neighbors? Our acquaintances? And yes, even those we do not know but encounter as we going about our appointed duties?

Recently, Nancy and I took a long-delayed vacation. In one of the cities we visited, there was a pelmeni shop. These are Russian boiled dumplings with various toppings.

Leighton was working the counter. As the shop emptied out, I was still enjoying my meal. I struck up a conversation with him about life in his community. The conversation eventually turned from news of the day to the Good News and I asked him what he thought of Jesus. We conversed about his past experiences with church and the challenges he felt. He said he needed "proof" of Jesus. I asked him if he would be willing to read the Gospel of Matthew and he said he would, indeed.

No matter where we go, I believe it to be good to have the eyes of Jesus, seeing lost and hurting people and invite them to consider the hope and compassion the Lord has for us. He does not tire from the immense challenges of this world.

Please pray for us as we begin our second quarter century of mission service bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of the house of Israel and to the gentiles. (Romans 1:16)

Steve Cohen is the founder of Apple of His Eye
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Israel Report



Open My Eyes That I May See!

Bob Roegner

Have you ever needed a reminder...no, a wake-up call, that everything happening around you might not be as bad as it seems? In this day of living through a world pandemic, it can be a tremendous challenge to see things as positive!

However, Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, tells the church then and the church now, that's exactly what we should be doing. Here are God's Words



through Paul from chapter 5, verses 16-18, "Always be joyful. Pray regularly. In everything give thanks, for this is what God wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua."

As I live here in Israel, read Old Testament history, and share this Good News of the Messiah Yeshua, with His chosen people, I am always amazed at their roller coaster ride. One day they were begging for forgiveness and when things began going so well, they could not help but exclaim, "Praise the Lord!" But soon their enthusiasm for their Creator began to diminish and the grumbling started again to the extent they would eventually beg to return to Egypt after having been rescued from slavery in that country.

Their vision was so blurred, they completely disregarded their former status, and the result was a condition that can only be described as unthankful.

However, before we become too critical, I must ask (and I encourage you to ask yourself as well) a personal question: what about me? How many ridiculous pity parties have I (or you) visited this year...this week?

Ah...how easy it is to miss what God has already done for us because we are so focused on a specific circumstance. There is no denial that circumstances can be life changing events such as the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, bankruptcy, foreclosure on our home and a COVID pandemic! As a result, blurred vision can become a quick reality.

The problem is if we don't get our vision repaired, we will continue to dwell on the circumstance while forgetting a magnificent God who has taken care of us in the past and will continue to hold on to us in the future *regardless of the circumstance*. This is what God was saying through Paul to the Thessalonian church and is saying to you and me today.

Always be joyful. Pray regularly. In everything give thanks, for this is what God wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua.

God is telling us not to allow the blurred vision of what this COVID pandemic has caused, like a decrease in funding for the mission in Israel, the challenges of traveling into, out of, and even around a country like Israel that has so many restrictive policies and rules, and the risks and real fears involved in catching the virus from others as you move about sharing this Good News of the Messiah Yeshua.

What's the 20/20 vision of being joyful, praying regularly, and in everything giving thanks telling us? This 20/20 vision is telling us that we are joyful for the FIVE seekers who are currently being discipled for baptism over the next few months, that through regular prayer, God continues to open more possibilities among unbelievers seeking to know more about the Messiah Yeshua, and through all of this I need to give up my pity parties and "Praise the Lord!"

Oh Lord...open my eyes that I might see!

Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner is an Apple of His Eye Bible Teacher to Israel
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Shmita

Kristi Roegner

For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. (Lev. 25:3-4)



Rosh Hashanah had special significance this year, for it was the beginning of “shmita” - a sabbatical year. Traditionally, shmita is a time to rest, reflect, and recharge. Shmita literally means “release”, and Jews release the right to work the land every seven years.

The number seven has always had significance in Judaism. To understand the care needed to exercise the shmita properly, we can reflect on its more familiar counterpart – the seventh day, Shabbat. Just as Jews prepare on Friday the food needed for Shabbat the next day, they prepare in the sixth year to have enough for the seventh year. However, regardless of whether they have planned well or poorly, once the shmita year arrives, they essentially must stop, for it is a national, communal, collective “Shabbat” for an entire year. The understanding is that just as people need rest every seventh day, God’s creation needs rest every seven years.

A Jewish adult observes the mitzvah (commandment) of shmita by owning land in Israel and refraining from working it during the sabbatical year, for it is a time of recovery for the land. During shmita, farming activities such as plowing, planting, pruning, and harvesting are forbidden, although trimming, watering, fertilizing, weeding, spraying, and mowing may be performed only as a preventive measure. Any produce that grows of its own accord on the land during shmita is considered “ownerless” and is free for the picking. Another aspect of the shmita “release” can be found in Deuteronomy, where we are told,

At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts. This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel any loan they have made to a fellow Israelite. They shall not require payment from anyone among their own people, because the Lord’s time for canceling debts has been proclaimed. (Deut. 15:1-2)

The idea behind this is the connection between peace/shalom and the belief that a person cannot be whole or complete if one is in debt. The law of debt cancellation was intended for the character refinement of the lender more than to alleviate financial hardship for the borrower, for a person is expected to pay back the money that he or she borrowed if possible.

Thus, the new year begun earlier this month, is the final, sabbatical year of the seven-year cycle – when land is left fallow, debts are forgiven, and other agricultural and economic adjustments are made within Jewish society.

We are reminded during shmita to place our trust in Jehovah Jireh, our Provider, as we rest, reflect, and recharge, for He provides for our needs every day of every year of our lives! Praise God for His generous provision!

Kristi Roegner is an Apple of His Eye Bible Teacher to Israel
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Nan C's Corner



Not an Outhouse!

Nancy Cohen

You shall dwell in Sukkot seven days, every citizen in Israel shall dwell in Sukkot, so that your descendants shall know that in sukkot I caused the Children of Israel to dwell when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.
(Lev. 23:42-43)

Sukkot: The word Sukkot is the plural form of “sukkah” which means dwelling, booth or tabernacle. During The Feast of Tabernacles, the Israelites build temporary booths or huts to dwell in, as a remembrance of God’s provision for them during their 40 years in the wilderness and our continued dependence upon Him through the ages. As stated in Leviticus, it is also intended as a reminiscence of the type of fragile dwellings in which the Israelites lived during their 40 years of travel in the desert after slavery in Egypt.

Sukkot has three different names it can be referred to: Sukkot, The Feast of Tabernacles, or the Feast of Booths. In these days of antisemitism, we need to be sensitive to our Jewish relatives, friends, and neighbors during a holy festival like Sukkot. My daughter was appalled when she heard a pastor refer to a sukkah as an outhouse! That not only offends, but it is blasphemous! It is ignorance to God’s Word to make such remarks. It will be addressed, but it will never be able to be repaired. One cannot retract words.

Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. (Num. 23:40)

Oh, my goodness! Sukkot is my all time - most favorite - happiest time of the year while living in Israel! The weather is cool, fall leaves are blowing all over the sidewalks of Jerusalem and the atmosphere is festive. On almost every other street there are stands of palm branches where boys, girls and their fathers are lined up to purchase some of the branches for the roofs of their “tabernacles” or sukkot.

The markets and grocery stores are full of people buying all types of food for the large dinners they will be hosting in their sukkot. There are plenty of desserts (rugelach - a Polish Jewish pastry like a cinnamon roll in the shape of a crescent roll, kugel - a baked Ashkenazi pudding or casserole made of noodles, as well as cakes and cookies), and wine and coffee and tea as well. Thinking about this makes me hungry, happy, and so very home sick for my beloved land!

During Sukkot, you rarely see a tent without at least 10-15 people gathered at meals. This is a time of celebration for families, friends, and acquaintances. It is a time of getting “caught-up” with old and new friends alike.



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The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing. He read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance. (Neh. 8:17-18)

On almost every balcony you can see tents with palm branch roofs. Those who didn't have a balcony set up their tents in a parking space, a vacant lot, or in their yard. The tents are not just for nightly feasts, but also for sleeping. Everyone spends the week of Sukkot living in their tent. Some sukkahs even have TVs and lighting.

Dinners began at sundown and there is talking, laughing and lots of singing. The songs are scripture, repeating God's command to remember the time of wandering in the wilderness after escaping from slavery in Egypt. Nightly celebrations go on until late. Almost everyone is off from their job during this time.

Then on the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work, and you shall observe a feast to the Lord for seven days. (Num. 29:12)

This holiday or rather holy time is not a trite event. Everything the Jewish peoples partake in is based on God's Word.

Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. Therefore, His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing." (Jn. 7:2-3)

Throughout Sukkot, when reciting the grace after meals, the ya'aleh v'yavo passage is added in, as is an additional one-line prayer for festivals: "May the Merciful One let us inherit the day which is all good." There is also a special line unique to Sukkot: "May the Merciful One restore for us the fallen sukkah of David" (i.e., the Holy Temple).

Some of our grandchildren build booths in their bedrooms while others build a booth on their balcony. In several Jewish neighborhoods, you might see booths up and down the streets. What a precious time to celebrate and recall all the Heavenly Father has done to save us from slavery and Egypt!

It really behooves us to remember our Egypt and how Yeshua saved us from our slavery and brought us to a new life. Wouldn't it be wonderful to host a dinner for your friends and neighbors and share the truth of freedom with them?

It is our prayer that you are free from the bondage of sin and living in the new life God has for all who believe in and trust in Yeshua.

Love from my heart,

Nan C.

P.S. Do you have a prayer request? Please share it with me. I would love to hear from you.

Nancy Cohen is the Director of Women's Ministries at Apple of His Eye
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The Hour is Short

You can bring salvation to those who do not know Jesus.



Your partnership makes our ministry possible. Support us with a gift at www.appleofhiseye.org/support/give

Jewish Humor



Technically, Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.

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