



Times and Seasons

Steve

Steve Cohen

Tempus Fugit...time flies, and it seems to many that the older we get the quicker it goes. Our lives are filled to the brim with

activities which consume time. When we take a pause to ponder, we wonder... where did it all go?

In the past few weeks, I have attended three funerals – or celebrations of life as many are calling these memorial gatherings. Lori Voges, Janet Peterson, and recently Steve Menke each were summoned into the presence of our Lord, leaving a wonderful wake of memories in the hearts and minds of families and friends.

Where did it all go?

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Continued...Our 25th Year

I have tried to instill wisdom in family members and grandchildren. Initially it was about resource allocation. To grandson Reed at age 21, I urged him to give to the Lord at least the first 10% of his earnings, store away 10% for a rainy day, put at least 10% in a retirement plan, diligently live within the 70% remaining, and do not rack up debt on credit cards, etc. He is doing that. He saw the wisdom of preparing for times and seasons in his young life.



Beyond financial plans, I urge every believer to see how the Lord has a life plan, too. That plan is to give ourselves in service to Him. Service can be reflected in so many ways. If we were to try enumerating them, we could fill volumes. Suffice it to say that prioritizing how we give ourselves makes a huge difference in the lives of all whom we meet.

As we end the year of Covid and enter a new year, what will we do in The Apple of His Eye that makes a difference?

As the Lord wills, we will continue advocating for our core mission statement: Boldly declaring Y'shua as Messiah to Jews and Gentiles; Urgently equipping the church to do the same.

Twenty-six years ago, we crafted that vision and continue to use it as the measuring stick by which we evaluate all we do – direct evangelism, literature creation, on-line and in-person teaching of the Bible, building networks of partnerships to give and receive in our sphere of influence, and pray, pray, pray for the salvation of the Lost Sheep of Israel as we go and grow with the eternal message of salvation.

We thank you, our friends, prayer partners, and sustaining mission supporters, who enable us to do all this and more now in our 26th year of front-line mission service. May these coming times and seasons bring great joy and fruit through your labors in Christ, too.

Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that'. (James 4:13-15, NIV)

Steve Cohen is the founder of Apple of His Eye
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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.

The Power of Prayer

Bob Roegner

Greetings,

It goes without saying, especially to those of you who are reading this AOHE newsletter blog. However, I am going to say it anyway, "The Power of Prayer WORKS!" To those five words I would like to say, "THANK YOU!"

As most of you already know, on the morning of October 30th, Kristi took me to the emergency room because I was as sick as I can ever remember being. I could tell I was pretty sick because of the flurry of activity going on in my emergency room with the doctors and nurses. I was quickly diagnosed with acute renal failure due to a pesky enlarged prostate that was not allowing me to urinate on my own. There was concern that other organs would soon begin shutting down as well, and a catheter removed over four liters of urine over the next two hours. I was hospitalized for two days with IV medication and antibiotics and finally released once my kidney function had returned to almost normal. Unfortunately, I still could not urinate on my own and lived the next five weeks with a catheter until TURP (Transurethral Resection of Prostate) surgery was performed and 50 grams of my prostate was removed. A cancer biopsy was benign, and as I write this, I am able to urinate on my own.

A second TURP surgery will be scheduled next year after March 10, 2022 (my next post-op appointment), giving me more time to heal and my current medication a chance to shrink the prostate before removing even more of the enlarged prostate.

My doctor was amazed at how everything went and how quickly I was healing at my first post-op appointment six days after surgery. He even commented to me that I must have a special relationship with God and that many people must be praying for me. He's right...because I had YOU and thousands of others from around the world praying for me!

*Bob
&
Kristi*



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In an article published on April 18, 2016, from the Program on Religion and Population Health at Baylor's Institute for Studies of Religion, it stated, "Nearly nine of 10 Americans have relied upon healing prayer at some point in their lives, praying for others even more than for themselves." It also stated that "The findings also suggest that prayer may be among the most widely used forms of treatment for medical problems."

PRAY in FAITH

There is no doubt in my mind that there is a direct connection between the prayers you have prayed for me and the healing that God is giving to me as answers to your prayers! Finally, this statement is made in the study, "People who feel a close connection to God, who love God and feel loved by God, are the very people most likely to pray for healing: for themselves or others, alone or in a group, and verbally or through laying on of hands." While none of you have been close enough to lay your hands on me, no doubt, through your prayers God has laid His healing hands on me! My words of encouragement to you.

KEEP IT UP!

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

By Kristi Roegner

Last year Bob and I were in the Holy Land, and even under stringent COVID restrictions were able to share the love of Jesus with those we met. This year is different – we are in the States due to Bob's current medical needs. Despite our being here for Christmas, our task remains the same – to share the love of Jesus with those we meet. Ephesians 3:6-7 (NLT) reminds us of this

And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

So, is this a different kind of Christmas? Not when you understand that Christmas is not about where or with whom you celebrate, but about the One whose birth is celebrated!



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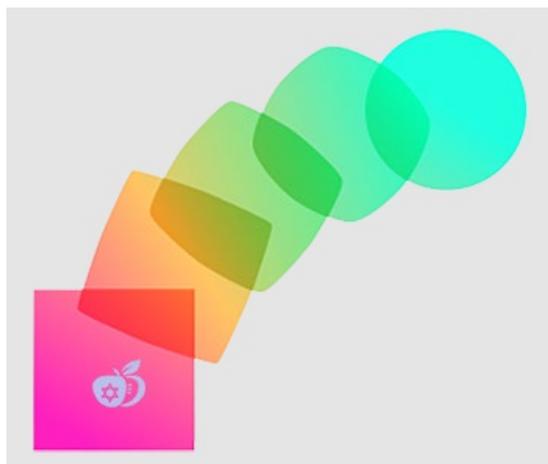
One thing remains constant about Christmas every year – the words, “For unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord!” Christ was born for everyone! We all know people who feel that God could never love them because they are too messed up, their sins are too big, they are too broken, too ashamed. But the Bible repeatedly says that He welcomes everyone who comes to Him. All can come as they are – bringing burdens, shame, tears, fears, doubts, sins, brokenness, even a dried-up spirit. Jesus welcomes everyone with open arms! He never belittled, shamed, or degraded people – especially those who were messed up! Jesus spent much of His time in His brief ministry with the downtrodden. They were accepted, worthy, forgiven, and loved by Him – and they knew it!

My friends, God has commissioned us to share the message of His Son with the world. We are “sent” by Him. In an Advent devotion Bob and I read today (written by Rev. Jay Winters of University Lutheran Church in Tallahassee, FL) we were reminded that “sometimes it isn’t as helpful to think of yourself as being sent someplace as it is to think of yourself as having arrived already. Christ HAS sent you. He has sent you to the place that you are now. You have arrived in your mission field, perhaps not permanently, but if you are in a place and time – God has sent you to that place. Now look around. Really look around. Who has He placed you around? In what circumstance has He placed you? He has caused you to come to this place for such a time as this. He has created you for this, He has redeemed you by the blood of His Son for this, He has sanctified you by His Spirit for this. Go now...live out your sent-ness in the place where God has placed you.”

In the place you are now, wherever that may be, there are people who desperately need to know the Good News! I pray that you are open to letting the love of the Lord shine through you to those around you, and that you make the most of every opportunity God gives you. Your words and/or your actions might be just the thing that makes someone stop and think about God and just how much He loves them. God wants all to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. He is hoping that the simple message of His love will be shared by you in the very place to which He has sent you!

Merry CHRISTmas (and Happy New Year)!

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NanC's Corner



Best Gift Ever!

By Nancy Cohen

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15, KJV)

An ongoing nemesis of Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the Enterprise (yep, I'm a Trekkie) is Q of the Q Continuum. He is a very colorful character and brings havoc every time he shows up. I find him to be a comic relief and fascinating (as Spock would say). Q never grows old, and he is eternal. He can zap anywhere anytime but seems to enjoy tormenting the crew and captain of the Enterprise most of all. Eternal

life is so appealing to the audience that they continue this character. Wonderfully we have that ability of eternal life also. That is some do, some do not.

Thankfully I am going to live FOREVER! And not just that, but I will be with GOD, Y'shua, and the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). I will be with my 2 babies who have gone before me, my grandmother, mother, Steve's dad, my friends Steven, Steve, Janet, Leona, and more!

In the past 13 months I have lost (here on earth) five very dear friends. This seems to be the season that we are all experiencing right now. *While it has been a time of grief, it is also a time of rejoicing in their new life in heaven. This all has come to mind for me, because of a recent incident my daughter had. Toi was visiting a dear believing friend and discussing a Bible study she leads. A young friend of the lady came over on an errand and was informed of the conversation in progress. After the introductions, Toi asked: "Do you believe in Jesus?"

The young woman then replied: "No. I was baptized, completed the confirmation class, and now I teach Sunday school to the little kids. I enjoy telling them a Bible story and singing hymns with them. But now that I am a university student, my boyfriend and I do not believe in God. We think there are many sincere paths out there, and each person gets to make their own choice. Sure, there is something greater than us in the universe, but we just do not know what that is. We would like to send our future children to church because of the good morals and the nice people."

Toi's friend was absolutely floored! After the young lady left, Toi's friend said "I have known this girl all of her life! I believed that she was a Christian. I am shocked."

Interestingly they were discussing the parable in Mathew 13 about the wheat and tares:

Y'shua put before them another parable. 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the



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wheat, then went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants asked him, 'Then do you want us to go and pull them up?' But he said, 'No, because if you pull up the weeds, you might uproot some of the wheat at the same time. Let them both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest-time I will tell the reapers to collect the weeds first and tie them in bundles to be burned, but to gather the wheat into my barn.' (Matt. 13:24-30, CJB)

Not everyone in church is a believer. Jesus said there are tares among the wheat. We have met pastors that have denied Christ and had pastored for several years (one over 25 years!).

So, what am I trying to say?

Do not be naïve. Share this wonderful gift. How sad to think we may be worshipping with people who just do not understand that going to church does not take you to heaven (just like going to McDonald's does not make you a hamburger). Be an active member. Ask questions in your small groups. Our faith does not lie in a book of confession, church attendance, etc., but on the blood of Y'shua alone!

Paul writes, "For the wages of sin is death [separation from God], but the gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23, KJV).

The babe of Bethlehem made a sacrifice for an eternal, non-refundable, one-size-fits-all gift. If you received this gift from God, then share it! If you have not received it, then do not let a day go by without it. Do not mock His blood by ignoring the precious price – take it and rejoice in your eternal life.

Thank you for being part of the AOHE Mishpaha (family)! We love and pray for you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love from my heart,

nanC

P.S. After recently attending the funeral of a precious friend, a fellow mourner and sweet sister shared a tragic encounter. When she began crying while talking about our friend who had passed, a church person rebuked her for crying about someone going to heaven and suggested she needed counselling. Hmm. Listen my friends, grief is a love word. Y'shua himself cried at the funeral of Lazarus when He saw how Mary and Martha were suffering after the burial. The Bible "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15, ESV). Do you believe God Almighty was jumping up and down and clapping His hands when Y'shua died? Indeed, mourning is a process the Bible understands well. Joyfully, there will one day be no more mourning: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying" (Rev. 21:4, KJV).

Someone once wrote "Our tears are also special treasures to the God who makes our bodies. 'Put my tears in Your bottle,' the Psalmist prays (Ps. 56:8). When we weep at the graveside, there is our Father, catching each tear as it falls from our eyes."

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

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The Hour is Short

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Jewish Humor

A Jewish mother's voice mail greeting:

Thank you for calling.

For Kugel, press 1

For knishes, press 2

For chicken soup, press 3

For matzoh ball soup, press 4...

...And if you're calling to ask how I am feeling,
you have the wrong number,
because no one ever asks how I am feeling.
No really,
I'm fine.

REACH OUT TO US

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