



Apple of His Eye
Established 1996

Newsletter



Stop
Anti
Semitism
Now

March 2022



Thanks for the Memories

Steve Cohen

*Remember for my good,
O my God, all that I have
done for this people (Neh.
5:19, ESV).*

I grew up playing clarinet in concert bands, marching bands, and jazz bands. The music we played covered a wide repertoire from classical to marching to swing and jazz. One song that has stayed with me over the years was "Thanks for the Memory". It was the late Bob Hope's signature song.

It is good for us to remember that which has gone but now is no longer. It is good to celebrate and honor those who have served and served well. To that end, it is bittersweet to share with you that Bob and Kristi Roegner are retiring from service with the Apple of His Eye this month...

WHAT'S NEW

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Estate Planning and Planned Giving Assistance



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Continued...Thanks for the Memories

Bob has had a dynamic career of service to the Lord from missionary to mission leader to Executive Director of LCMS World Missions to pastor to his service with The Apple of His Eye, accepting the call to serve as a Bible Teacher in Israel. He and his wife Kristy were the LCMS's first called Bible Teachers to serve in Israel.

The plan was simple, to be in partnership with Immanuel Church Lutheran in Jaffa and serve as the outreach arm of the congregation alongside the pastor there. We make our plans and the Lord just smiles. When the pastor there stepped down, Bob was invited on an interim basis to help lead that community of faith. That drew on his years of experience to help right the ship and move forward...until Covid hit. Bob and Kristi left Israel and returned to the US during the height of the pandemic. Through Zoom, they were able to continue ministry from afar until Israel opened again for people to enter.



Bob and Steve in Jaffa, Israel

Bob and Kristi have given us a peek inside their work in Israel through their monthly articles in the AOHE newsletter and through our regular staff meetings. The ups and downs of life gave us all opportunities to knit our hearts in prayer with them and encourage them, too.

Those of you who have supported Bob and Kristi have also blessed us all in giving a vote of confidence for the need to include Jewish people in the overall mission of the church, including reaching out in the land of over six million Lost Sheep of the House of Israel.

Bob and Kristi's years of service have brought our work forward in witness and now as we remember, we also look forward to the next stages of our ministry including a partnership with an Israeli Jewish believer who has been accepted into a Specialized Ministry in Place program through Concordia Seminary (Ft. Wayne, IN) but taken in Sweden through Mission Provence. Please pray for Sahar. Bob has had a major influence in his life and direction for service.



Apple of His Eye
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Your continuing mission support, prayers, and witness will enable us to write the next chapter in our 26th year of mission service. Thank you for helping make these memories possible. And thank you Bob and Kristi for your years of service with us!

Steve Cohen is the founder of Apple of His Eye
Email Steve at steve.cohen@appleofhiseye.org



Renew Restore Replenish

Support Us In Our 26th Year
Make Your Gift Now

www.appleofhiseye.org/give

In Person and On the Road...with Gratitude

Steve Cohen

Now that there is a greater ability to visit local congregations, meet with fellow believers, and educate believers about God's heart for the Jewish people, Nancy and I have been traveling again to fulfill this imperative. We have had some wonderful visits to churches recently, and we wanted to update you and say "thank you" to those who have hosted us.

- [Community Lutheran Church](#) in Escondido and San Marcos, California. Pastor Knauss and his congregations provided a very gracious welcome and warm hospitality to us. We performed a Passover Seder demonstration to illustrate this key Jewish commemoration and its tie to the work of Jesus.
- [Redeemer Lutheran Church](#) in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Pastor Kassouf and his congregation received us with graciousness and made a wonderful time for us as we performed a Passover Seder for the church.
- [St. Paul Lutheran Church](#) in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. Pastor Pastor Kyle Backhaus and Pastor Emeritus Tom Gudmundson hosted us for a Saturday Bible class where we met Karen, a Jewish inquirer. We had the





pleasure of answering many of Karen's questions and she has since decided to be baptized. We also spoke in three Sunday services and led the Confirmand's Passover Seder, which ended with their first communion.



Confirmands at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- [St. John Lutheran Church](#) in Plymouth, Wisconsin. Pastor John Schultz welcomed us for our "Christ is The Passover" presentation. We were delighted to present.

At each of these visits, we had a wonderful time of blessing, fellowship, and education among those who share the joys of faith in Y'shua. Thank you.

If you would like us to visit your church, contact our itinerary coordinator, Jordan Merrifield, or just ask your pastor to call. Jordan can be reached at: jordan.merrifield@appleofhiseye.org or (636) 326-4040, ext. 2.

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

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!

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NanC's Corner

For Such a Time as This?

Nancy Cohen

And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14b, New International Version)

Thank you, Mordecai! Your words have resonated through the ages for everyone who reads the book of Esther. We are in a fast-paced world of troubling times. More than ever before in my lifetime, I see the urgency for the Messiah in the lives and hearts of mankind. God hasn't raised up another Billy Graham. Pulpits are weak and the people of God are meek. But *you* who have the truth can spread the Gospel.

Steve and I have just returned from 44 days traveling for meetings on behalf of Apple of His Eye. We took ten flights from California to D.C. and in between. We returned to our home at the end of it all at 2:30 a.m. Of course, we came back exhausted, tired, and rejoicing! Below are some highlights.

- **Peter and LeeLee!** This was a reunion with precious friends whom I haven't seen in over 20 years! Peter and LeeLee were financial supporters while I served in Russia from 1993 to 2000. They were also emotional supporters; prayer warriors, and faithful teachers of the Bible. Seeing them reminds me of several Biblical principles on friendship:
 - Good friendships nourish us. "Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence" (Proverbs 27:9, Complete Jewish Bible).



- Good friendships reflect the love of Jesus. “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command” (John 15:13-14, New International Version).
- Friendships with nonbelievers should still be based on Godly behavior. “A twisted person spreads rumors; a whispering gossip ruins good friendships” (Prov. 16:28, NIV).
- Friendships with nonbelievers have an ultimate purpose: to reflect Jesus. “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Cor. 6:14, NIV). This verse can keep us from a world of pain, yet Yeshua himself kept company with unbelievers. For what purpose? To bring them to himself.

We have Shabbat dinner with any and everyone who wants to come. Why? To show them the Messiah through our love, lifestyle, and worship on the Shabbat. My son and daughter have entertained all their neighbors. They have an ongoing relationship with them and keep them in their prayers if they are unsaved. I have had neighbors come to me in time of need and prayer. Bottom line: be balanced, focused, and keep the Messiah at the center of all relationships.

In these times we need godly friends. People are lonely, hurting, and needy. If you are fortunate enough to godly friend(s), then pray for them and thank the Lord for them.

- **Micha!** God blessed us with a sweet visit with Micha and his precious wonder woman-wife Leah and our incredible granddaughters. Even in his declining physical state he brought comfort to my heart. We wanted to be a blessing to/for him and in turn, he was a blessing to us. Micha is the epitome of a Spirit-filled man. We thank God for the opportunity, albeit brief, he gave us to love on Micha, Leah, and their daughters.
- **Karen!** We had so many intimate conversations with excited believers on our trip who want more of God’s will and purpose in their lives. We even had the blessing of meeting several believers who have recently found through DNA testing that they are Jewish. Yet, my favorite time was with Karen.

We met her at one of our morning Bible Studies on Saturday. Steve introduced himself and me as Jewish believers in Yeshua. The woman sitting next to me said “I’m Jewish”. I gave her a thumbs up and turned to listen to Steve and his lesson. Karen repeatedly interrupted with questions. This is a very Jewish way -- interact. She had good questions. Then Steve and I realized she was not a believer, but a seeker.

Our meeting started at 8:30 and closed at 11:30. Karen had many reasons for not accepting Yeshua, two of which were fear of losing her family and her Jewishness. Not every Jewish person who comes to faith loses their family. One reason we cannot share full names or pictures is to protect converts or seekers. God will make a way with families and many join in accepting Yeshua as the Messiah. Nothing can take our Jewishness from us.

There was a time (and sadly, probably still is) when a pastor would tell a Jewish believer that now they are no longer Jews and must give up traditions. Not true. I have never led a German to the Lord and told them they now had to give up their beer! It was clear to use that Karen was wrestling with doubts and fear. I explained that fear can continue until it eats us up. Before she walked out the door, Steve asked her to pray and ask God what He would have her do.



We later found out that a retired pastor of our host church had been meeting with her (alongside a former missionary) for a couple of weeks. The next morning before the service, the pastor came to us and told us that Karen had called him and she received Yeshua as Messiah and Savior! She also asked to be baptized. Hallelujah! Please pray for Karen for her health and as she grows in Yeshua.

What the world needs now is love, sweet love.

Thank you, Jackie DeShannon. She sang that in 1965 and I have sung it almost every day after. The sentiment still resounds in our world today, doesn't it? There are wars, rumors of wars, famines, weather-related catastrophes, crime, etc. The nuclear family is dissolving, and churches are shrinking. What the world needs now is love sweet love...the love of Yeshua. God is love and He wants everyone -- gay, straight, neo-Nazi, Arian Nation, skinhead, black, white, green, blue, you name it. He wants everyone to know His love and promises. You have His love and His answer -- won't you give love a chance. Who knows whether you didn't come into your royal position precisely for such a time as this?

Thank you, Mordechai. Your words were meant for Esther, but they are what we need in this hour.

Love from my heart,

nanC

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
Email Nancy at nancy.cohen@appleofhiseye.org

A Final Thought...

Nancy Cohen

I was thinking this morning that consistency is a key to a fulfilled life. Note I said "a". There are others also. Consistent in prayer, Bible study, worship, honesty, communication, convictions, etc. I believe that it is what opens the door for God's leading and will. Remember: "A double-minded man (or woman) is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8, NIV).

Signs of Humor

In a restroom:

"Toilet out of order. Please use floor below."

In a Laundromat:

"Automatic washing machine: Please remove all of your clothes when the light goes out."



Apple of His Eye
Established 1996

The Hour is Short

You can bring salvation to those who don't know Jesus.



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

Did You Know?

We Can Help You with Estate Planning and Planned Giving.

Apple of His Eye can assist you in planning a gift with our Estate Planning and Planned Giving resources.

Please prayerfully consider including The Apple of His Eye Mission Society in your estate planning.

Your gifts will enable us to continue giving the Good News of eternal life to all people.

For more information, please contact us at (888) 512-7753 or email us at giving@appleofhiseye.org

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