

## YOUR OCTOBER 2023

### Apple of His Eye

Mission Society Newsletter

### PRINT EDITION TO SHARE

	Psa	lm 122:1 I was glad when they said to me,	
		"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"	
1	2	Our feet have been standing	
		within your gates, O Jerusalem!	
	3	Jerusalem—built as a city	
		that is bound firmly together,	
	4	to which the tribes go up,	
ī		the tribes of the LORD,	
		as was decreed for Israel,	
		to give thanks to the name of the LORD.	
	5	There thrones for judgment were set,	
		the thrones of the house of David.	
	6	Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!	
2		"May they be secure who love you!	
	7	Peace be within your walls	
		and security within your towers!"	
	8	For my brothers and companions' sake	
i.		I will say, "Peace be within you!"	
	9	For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,	
		I will seek your good.	

Please help support our war relief efforts in Israel, SCAN HERE>



# MICHA ALAN COHEN



Ded I am so great ril to have a wonderrid Dad loke you as an et anole! I cove you'

Photo by Monica Kegley during 2011 Jews For Jesus outreach This note sits on my desk as a daily reminder!

Dear praying friends,

Thank you for your prayers!!!

The battle is over and God wins! Our beloved son, Micha, went home to glory at 3 am on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

What an auspicious time, it was my mother's birthday, and a day of infamy when Hamas horrendously butchered hundreds of Israeli citizens and IDF members.

Micha was the oldest of five offspring. He was passionate about his Lord and wanting everyone to know Him and receive God's gift of salvation. He served in his father's footsteps joining Jews for Jesus and was based in the Chicago branch.

His loving wife, Leah, wrote this remembrance:

Leaving a Legacy	
	Home with the Lord



Revelation 21:1, 3-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ... 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will [a]dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them[b], 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

#### Micha Cohen

#### January 10, 1980 - October 7, 2023

Beloved husband for 20 years to Leah Cohen and loving father to Selah and Tikvah Cohen.

Dear son to Steve and Nancy Cohen; dear brother to Sarah (Chris) Born, Noah Cohen, Seth Cohen, and Lizzy Cohen; uncle to Liora, Aviva, Tova, and Elliana Born, and Hannah & Amira Cohen. Preceded in death by mother Jan (Isbell) Cohen. Son-in-law to Peter and Laura Gittlen, brother-in-law to Seth Gittlen, Jacob Gittlen, and Jerusha Gittlen.

Micha was welcomed into his eternal home on October 7th after a 13-year decline with Huntington's Disease. Micha's heart is seen in how he responded to getting the official diagnosis of HD: "I can't wait to see how God is going to use this!"

Micha was devoted to loving God and serving others. He served with Jews for Jesus while he was a student at Moody Bible Institute and full time after graduation until Huntington's Disease made continued work impossible, about 15 years in all.

Micha showed a servant heart and desire to have God first in everything. He looked for opportunities to share Messiah with everyone, even at doctor's appointments, in elevators, and in other daily interactions. He loved worshiping the Lord. He was devoted to his family and discipling his daughters, spending many hours preparing for devotions, helping them memorize Scripture, and taking them on fun daughter dates.

#### Well done, good and faithful servant.

### Micha had Huntington's Disease

## What Is Huntington's Disease?

Huntington's disease (HD) is a brain disease that is passed down in families from generation to generation. It is caused by a mistake in the DNA instructions that build our bodies and keep them running. DNA is made up of thousands of genes, and people with HD have a small error in one gene, called huntingtin. Over time this error causes damage to the brain and leads to HD symptoms.

HD causes deterioration in a person's physical, mental, and emotional abilities, usually during their prime working years, and currently has no cure. Most people start developing symptoms during adulthood, between the ages of 30 to 50, but HD can also occur in children and young adults (known as juvenile HD or JHD). HD is known as a family disease because every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the faulty gene. Today, there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease.

#### Symptoms of Huntington's Disease

The symptoms of HD can vary a lot from person to person, but they usually include:

- Personality changes, mood swings & depression
- Forgetfulness & impaired judgment
- Unsteady gait & involuntary movements (chorea)
- Slurred speech, difficulty in swallowing & significant weight loss

Most people with HD experience problems with thinking, behavior, and movements. Symptoms usually worsen over the course of 10 to 25 years and affect the ability to reason, walk, and talk. Early on, a person with HD or their friends and family may notice difficulties with planning, remembering, and staying on task. They may develop mood changes like depression, anxiety, irritability, and anger. Most people with HD become "fidgety" and develop movements of the face and limbs known as chorea, which they are not able to control.

Because of the uncontrolled movements (chorea), a person with HD may lose a lot of weight without intending to, and may have trouble walking, balancing, and moving around safely. They will eventually lose the ability to work, drive, and manage tasks at home, and may qualify for disability benefits. Over time, the individual will develop difficulty with speaking and swallowing, and their movements will become slow and stiff. People with advanced HD need full-time care to help with their day-to-day activities, and they ultimately succumb to pneumonia, heart failure or other complications. The symptoms of HD are sometimes described as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's – simultaneously.

#### The Huntingtin Gene & Protein

The DNA error that causes HD is found in a gene called huntingtin. This gene was discovered

in 1993. Everyone has the huntingtin gene, but only those that inherit the mistake, known as the HD mutation, will develop HD and risk passing it on to their children. Genes are made up of the nucleotide "letters" A,G,C, and T, which form a code that is read in groups of three. HD is caused by a stretch of the letters C-A-G in the huntingtin gene which repeat over and over, too many times...CAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAG. This is known as a CAG repeat expansion. In the huntingtin gene, most people have around 20 CAG repeats, but people with HD have around 40 or more. Every person who has this CAG repeat expansion in the HD gene will eventually develop the disease, and each of their children has a 50% chance of developing HD.

Our genes are like an instruction manual for making proteins, the machines that run everything in our bodies. The huntingtin gene (DNA) contains instructions that are copied into a biological message (RNA) which makes the huntingtin protein. The huntingtin protein is very large and seems to have many functions, especially as the brain is developing before birth, but it is not fully understood. We know that the extra CAG repeats in people with HD cause the huntingtin protein to be extra-long and difficult to maintain, which makes it difficult for it to do its job. Over many years, this "mutant" huntingtin protein forms clumps in brain cells, and causes them to become damaged and die. The most vulnerable part of the brain in HD is called the striatum, and it controls movement, mood, and memory. Damage to the striatum over time is what causes the symptoms of HD.

#### **Treating Huntington's Disease**

There is currently no cure or treatment which can halt, slow or reverse the progression of the disease. However, there are many treatments and interventions that can help to manage HD symptoms. A neurologist, psychiatrist, or nurse with expertise in HD may prescribe medications to ease anxiety and depression, help with troublesome behaviors, and calm uncontrolled movements. A psychologist or social worker can provide individual or group counseling. Physical and occupational therapists can work with patients and families to develop strength, move safely, and adjust the home environment and activities as needed. Speech language pathologists and nutritionists can help with communication, eating and swallowing safely, and combating weight loss. Clinician researchers may suggest participation in HD clinical trials.

Social and community support is an important part of HD care. Family, friends, loved ones, and companions often assume many of the HD person's former responsibilities and help with daily activities and care routines when they can no longer do so themselves. Caregivers and kids may also need support for the challenges and stresses that come with HD.

Source: https://hdsa.org/what-is-hd/overview-of-huntingtons-disease/



## Joy Comes in the Morning

"weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Psalm 30:5b. KJV

"Now, brothers, we want you to know the truth about those who have died; otherwise, you might become sad the way other people do who have nothing to hope for. For since we believe that Ye-shua died and rose again, we also believe that in the same way God, through Yeshua, will take with him those who have died." 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14 CJB

October 7th will always be etched on my heart because of Micha Cohen. In the week prior to this day, I had a dream. I told Steve it was very touching. I saw the image of Yeshua in heaven. Next to him was Jan Cohen, Steve's late wife and Micha's mother. She was tugging on Yeshua's robe saying, "let me go get him, let me go get him." He did.

Steve's beautiful godly son Micha went to Yeshua in the early hours of the seventh of October. His precious and hero wife Leah by his side. (I could write a book on this woman. She is an incredible example of a spirit-filled life) It was so overwhelming that God chose this day to take him home. Micha loved Israel. Micha was a lover of Yeshua! This man told everyone he met about God's salvation. He served with Jews for Jesus and was continually reaching out to the Jewish people, sharing the Good News. Almost daily I would receive texts from him to pray for a particular person as he talked with them. It truly convicted me to get bout God's business and endeared me to him. Micha and I prayed together (to include before I wed Steve). He was a kind, loving man, and I can honestly say I never heard him gossip, slander, or mock anyone in the entire time I knew him. I need more Micha's in my life. The world needs more Michas. Besides Leah, Micha left two beautiful daughters Selah and Tikvah (Tiki). They are active believers and remarkable teens. Please remember them all in your prayers. Below this article is a devotional that Micha wrote.\*\* May it be a blessing to you as well.

"For how can I bear to see the disaster that will overcome my people? How can I endure seeing the extermination of my kinsmen?" Esther 8:6 CJB

October 7 will forever be etched in my heart for two different and incredible reasons. Secondly: Israel was attacked – AGAIN. This time the enemy killed families, desecrated bodies, and took captives. It will only be a matter of time before we are blamed for our own deaths and the war. Those with no Biblical intelligence will take the side of Satan and blame us, the Jews, for the insane and hideous attacks that came on our people and land. Those who follow false gods have a satanic agenda to exterminate the Jewish nation. This is NOT a land issue. The aim is extermination. I have received letters and texts from Israeli friends asking for prayer for their children who have been called to service in Israel in the IDF. Israel does not have an army. It has a defense force (Israeli Defense Force). They have never pursued, they have defended. Once God Almighty gave Abraham a covenant and called Abraham's decedents His chosen, there was a mark on our heads. When God Almighty led, LED Moses and the Israelites to the promised land, there was a mark on our heads.

God gave a Jewish girl, the honor of bringing His only son into the world. Yeshua was Jewish! He was kosher! He kept every law given by God through Moses. Then Yeshua became the required blood sacrifice for sin on our behalf. He died and rose again for the Jewish and Gentile! He loved the world! He still does. He loved the unlovely Samaritan woman – a gentile. He loved the enemies of the Jewish nation – the Roman Centurion. He loves me! He loves YOU.

Steve and I are Zionists - now what?

We are called to win the lost. Both the Jew and Gentile. It is insanely difficult for me to love a group who murders my people. I do not have to. Yeshua loves them for me. I am required to tell them about God's forgiveness and love. I am commanded to tell them. Difficult? YES! However, I must remember that God saved me. I was no different from these Islamic murderers in His eyes. God could not even look upon me until I received His forgiveness, claiming the blood of His Son. I remember how the Germans treated Corrie Ten Boom because of her love for the Jewish people. They were monsters. Yet she loved them with the love of Yeshua. This summer, I spoke with a representative of POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach). Their mission is to win the Muslim. She is a Christian convert from Kuwait. She taught Islam in a University. I told her that I had an intense dislike of the Muslim people, how on earth can she minister to them? She said, "I love the Muslim and hate Islam". That was the best advice I have ever received concerning these people. Yeshua loved the sinner. He hated sin – but He loved the sinner! Do your part. If you are a believer, you must tell the truth (gospel) to others. Now is the time. Do not sit on what you know is true and eternally important to mankind. This is not my idea – it is Gods. There are millions of people who have never even read the Bible, let alone heard the gospel. I challenge you to read God's Word.

May our God bless and keep you. 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, nanC

(If this article has blessed you – share it) Do you have a prayer request? Share them with us: <u>nancy.cohen@appleofhiseye.org</u>

### Dearly beloved in the Lord,

"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore" (Psalm 125:1-2 ESV).

Over the last couple of weeks, we have all heard about the horrendous news coming out of Israel and Palestine. And there has been a lot of anxiety among the Jewish community throughout the world over threats that have been made against us.

Our hearts are breaking for those who have lost loved ones, those who have been injured, those who have been displaced, and those who are uncertain and anxious about the future. Many of you have likely received the letters that we have sent out encouraging you to pray for Israel, the civilians in Palestine, and the Jewish people across the world. You likely also have seen ways to donate money to people who are in need. I have been greatly encouraged by the outpouring of prayers and support that I have seen going to our Jewish neighbors and to Israel at this time of conflict and grief.

I also wanted to share something that our church has recently decided to do as a way of ministering to our Jewish neighbors. Sunday night, following the terror attack on Israel, one of the members of my congregation had some rgood questions for me.

She asked first, what we can do to aid our Jewish neighbors? Secondly, she asked if we can and should write letters to express our prayer and support for the Jewish people in our area. I thanked her for the suggestion and promptly typed a letter to send out (a copy of the letter, which used some information the Apple of His Eye sent out earlier in the week will be included).

I also asked members of Zion to sign the letter. And we had great enthusiasm from our people! It really warmed my heart to see the love expressed by them. In fact, a couple of individuals who were members of other congregations signed the letter too!

In times like these, it can be easy to become discouraged and to feel lost, but as I have seen the outpouring of support for the Jewish community, and as I think about words like our Psalm today, I think we can also share words of encouragement and hope.

After all, "the Lord surrounds his people." He surrounds them by sending people to proclaim the love of Jesus, raising people to encourage and support one another, and sending us His Word, gifts, and the blessings of this life.

I would like to leave you with the Aaronic benediction in Hebrew and English:

Y'va-reh-ch'cha Adonai v'yeesh-m'reh-cha.

Ya-air Adonai pa-nahv ay-leh-cha vee-chu-neh-ka.

Yee-sa Adonai pa-nahv ay-leh-cha v'ya-same l'cha Shalom.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26 ESV).

Yours in Yeshua,

### **Pastor Jordan Peiser**

P.s. Feel free to use and adapt the letter and have people sign it if you would like to send something similar to your local synagogues to let them know you support them and are praying with and for them.

In Dual Open Letters, Thousands of Harvard Students, Alumni, and Faculty Blast Student Groups' Israel Statement



Faculty, alumni, and students condemned a statement by more than 30 student groups calling Israel 'entirely responsible' for the ongoing violence in the region. By Zing Gee By Rahem D. Hamid and Elias J. Schisgall, Crimson Staff Writers

Thousands of Harvard affiliates signed a joint statement published Tuesday condemning the deadly attack on Israel by militant group Hamas and calling for the retraction of student group signatures on a statement that held Israel "entirely responsible for all unfolding violence." Following Hamas' surprise invasion of Israel Saturday morning, during which militants kidnapped more than 100 Israeli civilians and killed more than 1,000 Israelis according to Israel's Army Radio, Israel declared war, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the launch of a full-scale counteroffensive into Gaza — a Palestinian exclave presently controlled by Hamas.

The Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee and more than 30 other student groups faced <u>fierce backlash from students</u>, prominent faculty, and national poli-<u>ticians</u> for signing a statement Saturday saying that Israel's "apartheid regime is the only one to blame" for the violence.

# Please pray with us:

1. For peace in Israel that the Prince of Peace would reign in the hearts of all there.

2. For Leah Cohen, Selah and Tikvah as they celebrate Micha's home-going but miss him here.

3. For those families in Maine who are suffering with the loss of loved ones in the recent mass shooting.

4. For our upcoming Board meeting on November 10-11.

5. For God to make clear who the next leader of our ministry would be.

6. For Jordan Peiser's ministry in New Jersey.

7. For those who serve in our military especially those being sent to the Middle East.

