

YOUR AUGUST 2024

Apple of His Eye

Mission Society Newsletter

PRINT EDITION TO SHARE

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Reminder: New mailing address - PO Box 1649 Brentwood TN 37024



**SHALOM! YOUR GIFT OF MISSION
SUPPORT AT THIS TIME ENABLES OUR
ON-GOING MINISTRY IN OUR 29TH
YEAR. YOUR PRAYERS ARE CENTRAL
TO OUR WORK, TOO!**

END BIBLE STUDY IN CHURCHES?

By Steve Cohen, founder

I recently was at a service at Zion Lutheran Church in Walburg, my home congregation. The special guest speaker that morning was Rev. Fung Lo, a missionary in Laos through Mission In Christ. He was mentored by a longtime friend of mine, Rev. Yia Vang, a leader in Hmong ministries in the US.

His message was well received and some of his talk I will never forget. At one point he referred to new babies as “vipers in diapers”. They are highly demanding and can become the center of attention without saying a word, just crying.

Afterwards, I approached him by his display in the fellowship area. During our brief conversation he said something that captured my attention. “I believe that we Lutherans should stop Bible study. We go to classes, maybe even take notes. But then go about our week and disregard what we heard in class.”

Rather than “Bible Study, we need to change to Bible living.” I took this to mean that we should apply the scriptures to our daily life. Most people seem to be living with mental gymnastics on Sunday morning and then drawing a curtain to what we learned until we gather the next week for yet another Bible study, etc., etc., etc.

What if we lived the great commission daily? What if we actually forgave others as Christ forgives us? What if we held our church to a higher standard than the world which is dragging us down to these days through spiritual erosion?

End Bible study? Start Bible living! What a refreshing perspective that is uplifting and glorifies what the Lord is saying and doing in our lives today. Others will indeed take notice.

**END BIBLE
STUDY...
START BIBLE
LIVING!**

It's Time to Get Serious

"Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength!¹ Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary. For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. So take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing." Ephesians 6:10-13

The Apple of His Eye Mission Society stands on personal evangelism and teaching others how to do the same. Steve and I have been at this for over a combined 92 years. I have had the personal joy of winning others the savior and witnessing them to do the same. Logically with the number of years we have been at this, one would think the churches would be bursting from the people reached for Yeshua by the body of Christ! But it just isn't so. It's just not fun. It's just too hard to memorize God's Word or at least familiarize oneself with passages of hope.

Yeshua said in Matthew 4:19 "Follow me and I will make you schoolroom painters, water distributors, food banks, campers for social inter-action, daycares, Bible study leaders, etc.". Oh... oops! Nope! Yeshua said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men".

It's time to get serious!

While the world is consumed with the politics, vacations, school, summer break, Taylor Swift, football, soccer, etc., the enemy is taking it to hell. Our country is a battleground. It's as if Christians aren't even making a dent. Growing churches are being criticized for being large!! It's a backwards society. Antisemitism is escalating, hate groups are growing and our country is dividing more and more. And now we are shooting our leaders and each other.

It's time to **STOP** and realize who is in control of our society, our world. Believers, we are in a warfare with Satan. There is still hope for our country, our churches.

I recently heard the following and wept at the timeliness!! Pray for open hearts as you read.

In warfare, you should study the opposing general carefully, because victory is often about out-thinking the enemy.

"Satan can't tamper with anything in your life and mine other than what Almighty God allows."

Our enemy is ...

- Not just the Devil but also his kingdom ([Ephesians 6:12](#)).
- Powerful (v. 11).
- Limited—not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent (v. 13).

With regard to unbelievers, he might try to ...

- Disturb their mind and emotions.
- Hinder decisions that would bring God glory.
- Blind them to the truth ([2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#)).
- Steal God's Word from them ([Mark 4:13-15](#)).
- Oppose the gospel and the teaching of Scripture.
- Prevent them from believing.

"Satan will do everything in his power to keep us busy doing good things and therefore out of the Word and off our knees."

With regard to believers, Satan cannot cause demon possession.

However, he might try to ...

- Cause us to forget what God speaks to our heart.
- Tempt us to sin.
- Stunt our spiritual growth.
- Prevent us from reading the Bible and praying.
- Stop us from acknowledging God's greatness.
- Distract us and divide our mind.
- Lull churches to sleep and cause them to lose their passion for evangelism.
- Attack the Bible.

"We are God's created beings indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He that is within you is greater than he that's in the world."

How should we respond to our enemy?

- Be alert to his presence ([1 Peter 5:8](#)).
- Don't give him an opportunity ([Ephesians 4:27](#)).
- Put on the armor of God every morning (6:11).
- Resist the enemy, drawing nearer to God ([James 4:7-8](#)).
- Accept the salvation of Christ ([Romans 10:13](#)).
- Gather with fellow believers to be strengthened for battle ([Hebrews 10:25](#)).
- Stay in the Word ([Joshua 1:8](#)).
- Pray humbly ([James 4:10](#)).
- Trust and obey God ([Romans 16:26](#)).
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Consider these thoughts and questions:

- Which strategy has the enemy used against you recently? Was it successful? Why or why not?

As an agent of the Word of God, I implore you to get active in sharing the Word and reaching the lost.

“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sin into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:18-19).

Fall is fast approaching and, along with fall, the Jewish high holidays of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Whenever this time of year comes around, I think about a tradition I grew up with in the synagogue called Tashlich.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Jewish people find a body of water and toss bread or stones into the water to represent the casting off of sin. As this ceremony is occurring, someone will read from Micah 7:19 “He will again have compassion on us he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sin into the depths of the sea” (ESV). The ceremony reminds us that God has buried our sins. That, as far as God is concerned, our sins are gone.

How often do we find ourselves replaying our sins and failures in our minds? How usually do we live in those mistakes and let them consume us? Today’s text proclaims that our sins are forgiven, buried, and passed over by God.

Why? Because Yeshua has carried and nailed our sins to the cross, they are dead, gone, and forgotten. And we have been united with Jesus in the waters of Holy Baptism where death and sin were drowned and buried, and we were raised to new life with Yeshua (Romans 6:1-11). Whenever you make the sign of the cross, whenever you see water, and — perhaps if you decide to try your own Tashlich this year — you are reminded that your sins and failures have been buried in the water of Baptism. God has chosen not to remember them because our dear Lord Yeshua has covered and taken them away. He trampled your sin underfoot by His death and His rising from the grave.

You may still fall into sin and temptation, but each time you turn to Yeshua, you can remind yourself that God has forgiven you can remember that God has pardoned you, He has passed over your sin, He has buried it Baptism, and He — in His steadfast love — has raised you to new life.

Your sin has been cast into the water, it has been drowned and buried, and you — dear Christian have been raised to new life!

What can we take away from this?

Whether you decide to try your own tashlich this year or not, you can remember your baptism into Yeshua where God has chosen to forget our sins and to remember you. Where you, united with Christ’s death and resurrection, were raised to new life and made God’s child.

When the devil casts your sins in your face, or when you feel guilt and shame because of your past, you can turn to the promises God has made to you and praise God for His salvation. You can remember that your sin isn't who you are anymore. You can remember that God has cast those sins into the depths of the sea, that God has forgiven you in Yeshua, that you have been set free, and that God's steadfast love was, is, and will always be shown to you in your Lord Yeshua.

Finally, sometimes people ask, "What can I say when I have the opportunity to share my faith with others?" Today's text shows us two things. First, we can proclaim the objective and historical reality of how God has pardoned us in and through the death and resurrection of our Lord. Secondly, we can share how we have experienced and received this forgiveness and how we have seen God's steadfast love and mercy in our lives.

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, You have cast our sins into the depths of the sea and have demonstrated Your steadfast love for us in Yeshua, who died and rose for us. Fill us with such an awareness of Your mercy that we would find comfort, freedom, and peace in You and share this hope with others until that day that You call us to Your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

Rejoice and share the Gospel with those who are in desperate need.

Yours in Y'shua - Rev. Jordan Peiser - New Jersey missionary



Pray for the Prince of Peace to bring true shalom to all in the Middle East

Fall - 2024



SHALOM!

On behalf of all of us at the Apple of His Eye Mission Society, I wanted to thank you for your care, prayers and mission support since 1996.

Because of YOU and other congregations, we have been able to reach lost Jewish people and gentiles with the saving Gospel of our Lord, Jesus. Sadly, there are still nearly 6,000,000 Jewish people in North America who do not believe He is the Messiah... yet!

THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE.

**To continue this important work, we have adopted
a Biblical model of support.**

Like the priests serving at the Temple were supported by the free will offerings of the rest of Israel. Three times a year they joyfully brought their gifts up to Jerusalem at First Fruits, Pentecost and Sukkot to replenish the storehouses.

It almost goes without saying . . . like the priests of old, we rely entirely on God's people to underwrite our missionary work.

**WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO REPLENISH
THE STOREHOUSE OF MISSION SUPPORT.**

*[YOUR GIFTS] ARE A FRAGRANT OFFERING,
AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE, PLEASING TO GOD. PHIL. 4:18*

Thank you for caring for our people by enabling the sharing of the Gospel.

Yours in Y'shua,

Steve M. Cohen, Founder

Romans 1:16

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The Apple
of His Eye
is a RSO of
the LCMS

Notes from Ken Ebright - Our volunteer in St. Louis



Chuck Berry Statue on the loop

I went down to the Delmar loop.

I talked to Diego and he needs prayer about his grandmother's health.

I talked to Mike he says he's a believer he's starting a hotel business so he asked for prayer.

There's a guy that said there was no Jesus and I'm trying to have a discussion with him and I just disengage because it seemed like he was not going to listen.

I talked to Steven he doesn't have an email address. But he sounds like he's a Catholic. I try to tell him we are saved by grace. He's also been in jail before and he appeared being close to homeless. I asked him about that he said he wasn't homeless.

I talked to Bradley he didn't want to talk about Jesus I told him I pray for him. Is someone who's homeless.

I talked to a woman named Sharon it's very apparent that she's mentally ill. I get her email address I don't know if she'd even listen to me because she wasn't listening to me when I was trying to talk to her. She has some strange thoughts.

I talked to Mike he's an unbeliever. Presented him the gospel although he wouldn't give me his email address.

I talk to a gentleman from China. I have his email address.

It was a very humid night. It went okay I guess.

Please pray for Ken as he goes out weekly to reach the lost in St. Louis. If you would like to stand with him sometime, please let us know, we would welcome your partnership on the streets!

Please pray with us:

1. For peace in Israel that the Prince of Peace would reign in the hearts of all there. The escalation of hostilities in the Middle East is fraught with danger.
2. For the pastors, who serve us, that they might be encouraged in their service.
3. For Jordan Peiser's ministry in New Jersey.
4. For those who serve in our military especially those being sent to the Middle East.

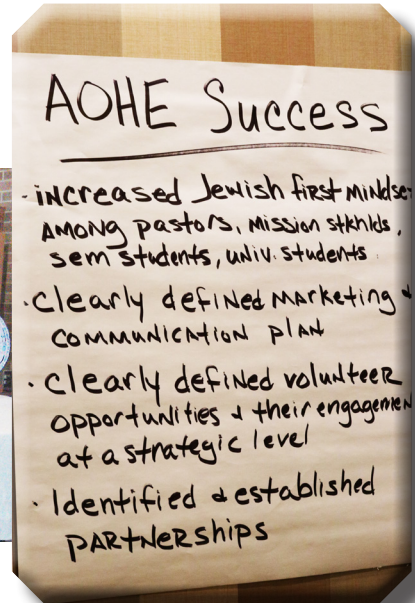




August 1st, 2024 marks our 29th anniversary bringing the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus... yet.



Presentations in 1,800+ churches



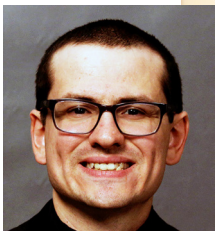
7 Books, 152 new broadsides,
1.2 million distributed,
4 editions of Portals of Prayer



To the Jew First
- Romans 1:16



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Pray
for the
salvation
of
Israel
Rom:10:1



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S.
O.

