

Nov/Dec 2023

Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

I have dreaded and postponed the writing of this newsletter. The last couple of months have been a roller coaster of emotions. When we returned from Israel after the war started our schedule filled up quickly. Almost every night I was preaching somewhere. Prophecy conferences or special days focusing on Israel seemed to be the focus. It was incredible watching the Lord work. People were getting saved, and the saved were being strengthened in their faith. Many churches started reaching out to us in helping with providing financial resources for the people of Israel. My oldest son Cody and I along with other missionaries with the Hope of Israel began to purchase items to carry over to help with those involved with this war against terrorist. We not only wanted to help provide physical help to the Israeli defense force (IDF), but we wanted to get the gospel to them anyway that we could. We had a website built that introduced baptist and why baptist stand with Israel. On this website there were links to receive a free New Testament as well as the gospel. Every item that we take over is labeled either with a sticker with a QR code to the website or cards placed in the items. Some of the items that we were loading were: tactical first aid kits, hydration packs, tourniquets, and even sharpies with the website printed on them. Believe it or not the sharpies are in high demand, they are needed to write on the tourniquets when applied. We knew this first trip would be a learning experience for us as well. Getting everything thru the airport was very challenging, but thru much prayer we prevailed. We landed in Israel early on Dec 8th and had several hours before checking into the Airbnb we were staying at. We chose a location in the center of the country half way between Gaza and the Lebanon border. This would allow us easy access either direction depending on which way the Lord would open the doors for us. Since it was Hanukkah as well, I had my Hanukkah tract translated into Hebrew and printed there. We drove up to the Lebanon border to where my apartment is and picked up the gospel tracts that we planned to distribute as well. After a long day of no rest we finally went to bed. About two hours later I received a phone call from my youngest son. He came home from work and found his mother collapsed on the floor. When he called, the paramedics were already there, but it was too late. Apparently my wife had a brain aneurysm that morning. She was now in the presence of her Savior, in whom she loved and served faithfully for so many years. Needless to say we were absolutely devastated, we didn't have any prior indications of this happening. Having only about 2 hrs sleep within the last 30+ hrs I was completely exhausted and overwhelmed. I laid down for about 2 more hours. We were staying on the Mediterranean Sea, that night it stormed violently all night. When I got up around day light I stepped out on the balcony. The first thing I saw was a rainbow directly in front of me. It was surrounded by extremely dark stormy skies. The Lord began to speak to my heart. He assured me that no matter how dark the storms may be, He will be there, and be there He has! His strength and peace has been unmeasurable in our lives. He has taken and continues to take our broken hearts and fill it with His grace and love. I can honestly say that His goodness and love is truly amazing! I am so grateful for the thirty