



# Newsletter Jerusalem Baptist Church

Number 5 ~ September/October 2014

## COLOFON

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*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

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*"Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues." John R. W. Stott (1921-)*

*"Grace comes into the soul, as the morning sun into the world; first a dawning, then a light; and at last the sun in his full and excellent brightness."*

*Thomas Adams (1612-1653)*

*"Grace is the love that gives, that loves the unlovely and the unlovable." Oswald C. Hoffmann*

# Serving our Lord until He comes...



## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR Dr. Al Nucciarone



### A Primer on God's Grace

In my almost 35 years of Christian ministry overseas, there are two books that have helped me through all the difficulties and challenges I have face. They are the "Sufficiency of Christ" by John McArthur and "Grace Awakening" by Chuck Swindoll. They deal with basically the same idea. In Christ we are complete and God's grace is sufficient for every situation.

In the world today we have a philosophy of humanism which pervades society and often times religious institutions. In the Bible we have the story of Babel in Genesis 10. Here was man's attempt to reach God. The people built this monument with heaven as a goal. They were unified in their pursuit and all spoke the same language which also solidified their unity. This was not pleasing to God. This endeavor demonstrated man's desire to be the controller of his own destiny. God's judgment on this pursuit was swift and pervasive.

Humanism is the prevailing philosophy of our society. We are taught in our schools, read about it in our self-help books, and even share it in religious terms like "God helps those who help themselves". William Henley was one of the early humanists. He wrote the "Invictus" which is often quoted in school and political speeches around the world.

#### Invictus

**Out of the night that covers me  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul**

**In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed**

**Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid**

**It matter not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the  
scroll,  
I am the master of my fate;  
I am the captain of my soul**

This is the epitome of Satan's world view and his strategy is to spread it to all humanity.

The Bible has a different philosophy. Christianity is not man's attempt to reach God, but God's reaching down to us. In fact grace means God's stooping down to us. As Paul says in Ephesians 2, we were all dead in our sins and trespasses. We were incapable of doing anything to obtain salvation through our own means. It was God who saved us by his grace. Grace is His undeserved favor for us.

The Apostle Paul was a great debtor to the God of grace. He marveled at the grace that saved him from violent past. He rejoiced in God's grace that sustained him through trials, weaknesses, and persecutions (2 Corinthians 12). God's grace was a constant theme in his writings and preaching.

My dear brothers and sisters, I challenge you to delve into the great, majestic theme of God's grace. Think of God's undeserved love for you. Fix your eyes on Jesus who demonstrated grace for us by going to the cross to pay the debt for our sin. Ask God to make you a channel and a true messenger of God's Amazing Grace.

*"None but God would ever have thought of justifying me. I am a wonder to myself." Charles H. Spurgeon,*

*Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound), That sav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.  
-John Newton*

*When granted many years of life, growing old in age is natural,  
but growing old with grace is a choice. Growing older with grace is  
possible for all who will set their hearts and minds on the Giver  
of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ. Billy Graham*

*We cannot "psychologize" the grace of God. God's actions are  
outside and above our human sciences. -John Powell*

## POLAND OUTREACH – testimony by Pastor Al Nucciarone

Billie and I arrived in Poland on August 1 and after a wedding on Saturday we began our one week evangelistic mission. I went with another pastor from Israel and a Polish couple. The Polish man was a brother I knew in Vienna who has a real heart for outreach. He has helped me in the past in other outreaches in Poland.



We arrived back in Pawlowice to greet our team who would help at the sport camp. The camp was a real blessing. We had a 12 man coaching staff including coaches from Ukraine, America, England, Italy, and Ireland. The Bible teaching staff of 4 came from Poland, Israel and England. I was able to help Pastor Marian Pawlas, in the coordination of the camp. I also served as the chief water boy.

We also had the help of around 10 Polish young people from the Pawlowice church who helped in translation and other things.

God did a mighty work. There were 60 kids in the camp. 12 were orphans and 4 were refugees from Ukraine. In the morning we had devotions based on radical Christianity and what it means to really follow Christ. After this we broke up into 4 groups and did the sport activities which included basketball, soccer, volleyball and crossfit. In the afternoon there were more sport activities and outreaches. The outreaches included kid's outreach in a city square, open air preaching with a sketch board and an evangelistic concert. 100's were reached. In the evening we had evangelistic meetings at the camp. Praise God that around 20 of the campers made profession so of faith.



Singing before breakfast with Pastor Marian



Evening worship service

One of the great miracles was in the life of an orphans name Marcin. He was 18 years old and known for his dirty mouth. God did a work and he professed Christ. His life changed dramatically.

When we had an outreach on Thursday he was helping with

great enthusiasm.

At the end of the camp on the Friday evening we had a great test of faith. One of the polish young from the church jumped into a crowd of kids hugging one of the coaches. He landed almost on his head. He was quickly brought to another room and laid down with a support for his neck. Fortunately one of the coaches had training in dealing with injuries. We feared he might have broken his neck. While we were waiting for the ambulance, everyone prayed. The campers and staff were brought together as we cried out to the Lord. Marcin was on his knees



Basketball training



Baptism service in the river

pleading with the Lord for the young man. It was so moving to see us all of united in prayer. Praise God that Starek, the young man, only suffered some muscle pulls. He came from the hospital that night with a neck brace and insisted staying on until Sunday.

## OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE MIRACLES

After months of being harassed by endless missiles sent by Hamas from the Gaza Strip to Israeli populated areas, the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) launched “Operation Protective Edge”. Again, Israel found itself at war, while the only thing she longs for is to be able to live in peace.

The international media mostly talked about the casualties, highlighting the high loss of life on the Arab side while ‘forgetting’ to mention that Hamas often uses their people as human shields. Around the world believers prayed for this conflict to end. God answers prayer, often in amazing ways. The following stories have been circulating via the internet, as you won’t find them in your local newspapers!

### **The Wheat Field at Kibbutz Sufa**

In the beginning of July a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews from Bnei Brak travelled to Kibbutz Sufa to harvest wheat from which next year's Matzot for Pesach will be baked. This year they had to harvest wheat grain for two years because of the Shmita agricultural sabbatical year that begins with Rosh haShana. Throughout Israel they searched for wheat which had been sown late in the season and needed the latter rain. The field at Kibbutz Sufa (next to the Gaza border) had been sown in mid-January, which was considered unusual. The 2000 acres of green wheat were just right for them. As the men were harvesting, the Gaza air campaign was already underway, and they regularly saw military police and undercover units patrolling the area. Two days after the harvest, 13 Gaza terrorists emerged from a tunnel in the fields near Sufa. Their plan to stage a murderous attack while hiding in the giant wheat field had been thwarted by the late harvest. Because the field now was completely empty, military observers spotted the terrorists. Many lives were saved.



Illustrative photo

## **Somebody must be praying!**

On July 8, 2014, air raid sirens went off on a Moshav in the Judean Hills, not far from Jerusalem. Grabbing their children the family ran for the bomb shelter, just in time to hear an enormous explosion which shattered the large living room window into a million pieces.

The two-foot missile landed in a garden between the houses, leaving a huge hole in the ground and shattering glass everywhere. Other than structural damage no one was injured.

Emergency crews arriving at the scene said they had never seen anything like it before - how the missile missed the houses and landed in such a narrow gap between them – like an unseen hand guiding a thread through a needle. They actually said, "Someone must be praying on this Moshav!"



Tel Aviv center—Azrieli Towers

## **A 'strange' wind.**

When a missile is fired from Gaza the sophisticated Iron Dome system precisely calculated its trajectory and know where it is going to land down to a radius of 200 meters. On that particular day the team knew the missile was going to hit either the Azrieli Towers, the Kirya (Israel's equivalent of the Pentagon) or Tel Aviv center.

Hundreds of people could die.

The first interceptor missed. So did the second one, which was very rare.

The shocked Dome operator realized they had just four seconds before the missile was going to hit. Emergency services were notified to prepare for a mass-casualty incident. The Iron Dome station also receives weather updates, and suddenly one of the soldiers yelled, "We've got wind gusts! They're really strong!" To everyone's utter amazement they saw the incoming missile veer away from Tel Aviv's city center and crash into the Mediterranean Sea.

One of the soldiers jumped up and cried out, "There is a God! There is a God! We have seen the hand of God push the missile away!"



Many people, including many American Jews, simply refuse to believe these stories because they seem too corny. That's too bad—because the Arabs believe them.

A Hamas leader interviewed by CNN was asked why their missiles never seemed to hit anything of substance. "All of our missiles are tested, and those who launch them are experts, but their God stops them," he responded.

"If you understand that their God is protecting them why do you keep launching missiles?" the interviewer asked.

"We're probing for a weak moment," he said, "when their God doesn't favour them."

### The Dove

A soldier who just returned from Gaza shared the following story in his synagogue.

"My army unit identified the home of a wanted Hamas terrorists, and we made preparations to arrest him. Early in the morning we approached the house and were about to enter when suddenly a dove hovered overhead. It was such a strange appearance that we stopped and watched as the bird landed on a nylon string we had not noticed before.



A second later the booby trapped house we were about to enter blew up. God sends His messengers in different shapes and sizes."

- ◆ ***"We cannot "psychologize" the grace of God. God's actions are outside and above our human sciences." -John Powell***
- ◆ ***"A man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next 6 months, nor can he inhale sufficient air into his lungs with one breath to sustain life for a week to come. We are permitted to draw upon God's store of grace from day to day as we need it."***  
***D. L. Moody***

## **Baruch dayan emet – what does it mean?**

For thousands of years, Jews have been evoking the blessing of “Blessed is the True Judge” in response to death and tragedy. In phonetic Hebrew: bah-rooch a-tah a-do-noi e-lo-hei-noo me-lech ha-o-lahm da-yah ha-e-met.

The Talmud tells the story of Rabbi Akiva arriving at a city and looking for a place to lodge. When no one took him in, he said, “All that God does, He does for the good!” and he went to sleep in a field with a rooster, a donkey and a candle for company. Suddenly, the wind blew out the candle, a cat ate the rooster and the donkey was killed by a lion. And Rabbi Akiva said, “All that God does, He does for the good!” While he was out in the field, an army captured the city. The moral of this illustration: even seemingly negative occurrences happen for a reason, even if that reason is not apparent. Therefore we should always thank God for the not-so-good happenings in our life, just as we thank God for the good in our life.

When somebody dies, we often wonder why God chooses one person to live longer than the other. Why did the person have to suffer before his or her death? Religious Jews are taught to bless God, and by saying, “Blessed is the True Judge,” they acknowledge that this is beyond their understanding. Ultimately, the “True Judge” knows what He is doing.

This is how Israelis try to cope with the loss of their loved ones, especially in this time of war when everyone knows someone who either has a son, husband, brother or grandson in the army.



## DVD & BOOK REVIEW

### Against All Odds: Israel Survives - DVD

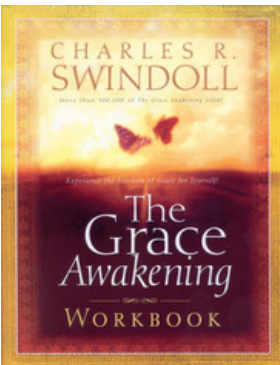
The complete 13-part cable network series that asks the powerful question: Is Israel the place of miracles? Modern day Israel is truly a divine wonder of the current age. How has it triumphed through four major wars and survived relentless terrorist attacks? Meet the actual people who lived through what can only be described as miracles of Biblical proportions, and share their remarkable stories in this 13-episode series.

Even cynics will be challenged by this extraordinary journey through Israel's turbulent history to explore incredible documented stories which helped create and preserve modern Israel. This stirring 13-part live-action series dramatizes awe-inspiring incidents that pose the question: Does a divine power continue to uphold the country?



<http://www.christiancinema.com>

## BOOK REVIEW



### The Grace Awakening

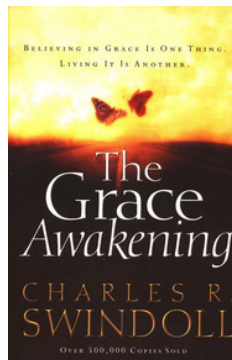
Experience the classic work of Charles Swindoll updated and relaunched for a new generation of readers. In this best-selling classic, Charles Swindoll urges you not to miss out on living a grace-filled life. Freedom and joy, not demands and duties, await all who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. For a growing number of people who feel that there should be something more to their walk with God than the sometimes grim face of religion, *The Grace Awakening* offers a glorious alternative: the truth that sets

us free. Paperback, 304 pages, Published by Thomas Nelson, 2006  
ISBN: 0849911885 Also available as an E-book.

## Grace Awakening Workbook

For personal, small-group, or large-group study, *The Grace Awakening Workbook* will bring you deeper into a transformational understanding of God's grace. Filled with questions, exercises, personal applications, journaling ideas, and scriptures to explore, Charles Swindoll teaches you how to start living a grace-filled life.

Paperback, 36 pages, ISBN: 0849945313 Available at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)



## JBC family news



**MAZAL TOV** to Coach Terry and Dianne Hill on the birth of their 8th (!) grandson, Gideon Paul Cole, who was born August 1st. Proud parents are Jason and Laurie Hill Cole and proud siblings, 15 year old Grace and 13 year old Marcus.



**MAZAL TOV TO IRENE LEVI ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY, August 25.**



## JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDER 2014

### ROSH HASHANA

September 24: *Erev Rosh haShana* – shops close around 2 p.m., like on a Friday

September 25: *Rosh haShana* – all Jewish shops closed, no busses

September 26: *Rosh haShana* – all Jewish shops closed, no busses

### YOM KIPPUR

October 3: *Erev Yom Kippur* – shops will close early – between 1-2 p.m.

October 4: *Yom Kippur* – Day of Atonement



סליחה



### SUKKOT

October 8: *Erev Sukkot* (Feast of Tabernacles) – shops close early!

October 9: 1st day of Sukkot – everything closed on the Jewish side- like a Shabbat)

October 10: Like a regular Friday.

October 12-14: *Chol ha mo'ed*—

Intermediate days of Sukkot. Many shops are closed or only open for half a day.

October 15: *Hoshana Raba* – like a Friday

October 16: Last day of Sukkot – *Simchat Torah* – like a Shabbat

October 17: *Isru Chag* – like a normal Friday

October 19: "*Acherei haChagim*" – after the holidays. Back to normal!

## SUKKOT INFO

### What was used to build a *sukkah*?

The first sukkot built in the wilderness were probably made from the branches of the acacia tree. This tree grows abundantly in the desert wadi's where floodwaters provide the necessary moisture. The Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia wood. Once in the Promised Land, the Israelites were able to use the trees of the forest to build sukkot, as we can read in Nehemiah 8:15.

The Bible mentions olive, pine, myrtle, and palm branches, including those of thick trees.

Together with the reminder of Israel's journey in the wilderness, the rabbis said the sukkah was the symbolic reminder of man's reliance on Divine protection.

*"In Salem [Jerusalem] also is His tabernacle, [sukkah] And His dwelling place in Zion."* (Psalm 76:2 NKJV)

*"...then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle [sukkah] for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain."* (Isaiah 4:5, 6 NKJV)



Travel succa (on a camel saddle)

Ethiopian Jews (Beta Israel) never built booths, because in Ethiopia they lived in huts all year round.

## Enter, exalted holy guest...

Ushpizin, (Aramaic word for guests) was a 16th century Kabalistic custom that is still part of the religious observance. Ushpizin refers to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and David who each day are symbolically welcomed into the sukkah.



## The Four Species

A general part of the Sukkot Festival are the “four species” – Araba’ah Minim - which are held together and waved at different points in the religious services, in accordance with the commandment “Rejoice before the LORD”. The four species consist of a lulav - palm branch, etrog – citron, hadasim – three myrtle twigs, and the aravot – two willow branches. These species combined are called the Lulav.

## Bible readings during Sukkot

During Sukkot services the unabridged Hallel (Psalm 113-118) is recited each morning.

Further Biblical readings during Sukkot:

- Leviticus 22:26-23:44
- Numbers 29:12-31
- Zechariah 14:1-21
- 1 Kings 8:2-21
- Exodus 33:12-34:26
- Ezekiel 38:18 – 39:16

The book of Ecclesiastics

## Sukkot in ancient times

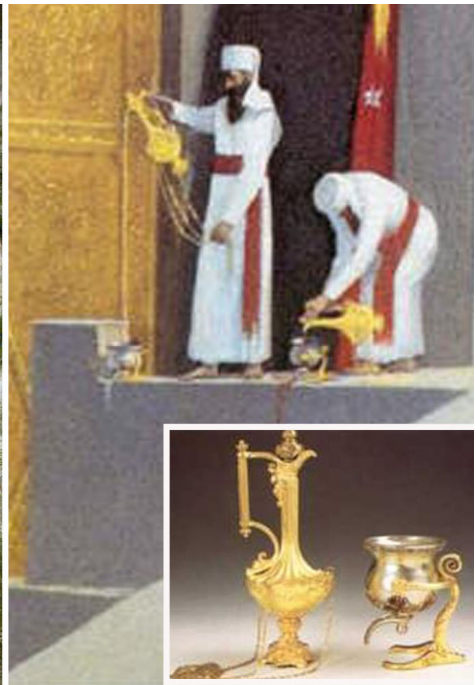
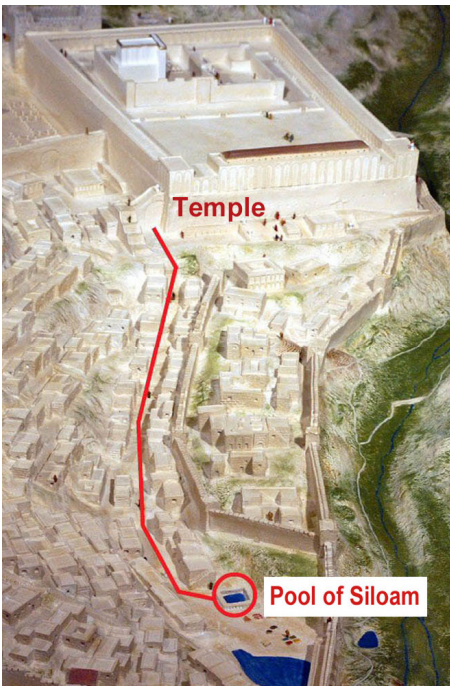
During the time of the Temple, a total of 70 bullocks were sacrificed on the seven days of the festival. (Numbers 29:12.) Rabbis suggest this corresponds with the 70 nations of the world.



## With gladness drawing water...

The Talmud describes in detail the Sukkot “Water Rituals”.

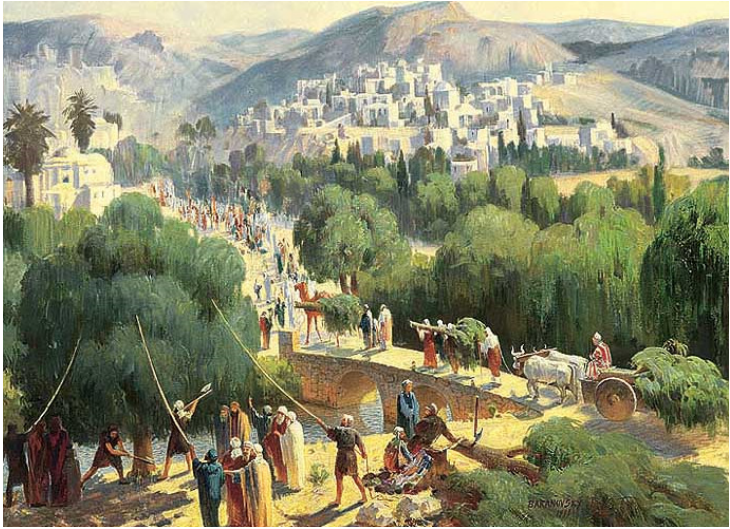
At the end of the first day of Sukkot, huge golden lamps were lighted, illuminating the whole of Jerusalem. Levites played musical instruments and recited psalms, while the people watched and participated in joyful celebration. The next morning, a group of Levites and priests, accompanied by many celebrants, went downhill to Jerusalem’s Shiloah pool. All the way they played musical instruments and sang biblical songs, such as the well known “You shall draw water with gladness out of the wells of salvation”, taken from Isaiah 12:3. With a golden vessel they drew water, and then went up again to the Temple, all the while singing and dancing. The waiting High Priest took the golden vessel and poured the water in one of two bowls with narrow spouts. The other bowl contained wine. The priest held the water bowl high up to the west (where the rains came from) and the wine bowl towards the east. The assembled people watched as the liquids dripped from the spouts like rain drops.





## Willow branches around the altar

A group of people would descend each day to a little village near Jerusalem, Motza, to cut willow branches, used to decorate the Temple's altar. Each



day the altar was circled once by people holding the lulavim and saying Hoshanah prayers. On the last day of Sukkot the altar was circled seven times, after which the willow branches were beaten till the leaves fell - representing rain drops. It also symbolizes the fact that willows absorb a lot of water, but doesn't produce edible fruit. In other words, it wastes water. Destroying the branches is a symbolic gesture of water preservation. Others see the falling leaves symbolic of casting away sins.

## Shmitah - the Sabbatical Year

Fall 2014 (5775) will be the start of the next Shmitah Year.

***“Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove.”***

Exodus 23:10-11 (NKJV)

God commanded the Shmitah year (or sheviit - seventh year) to be one of social justice and kindness to animals (Leviticus 25:1-7). It also was to be a “Sabbath unto God” (Leviticus 25:1-7) and a “Sabbath for the land”, in which it could renew itself. Debts are to be forgiven (Deuteronomy 15:1-6) and the impoverished given a chance to make a fresh start.

The Torah forbids the planting of trees and vegetables, pruning, and harvesting during the sabbatical year. However, trees can be irrigated if they would otherwise die.

The fruits and plants growing in fields during the sabbatical year are called *hefker*. They belong to no one and to everyone, and it is forbidden even to chase a wild animal away from the field if they want to eat. A Jew can eat fruit from a tree during the sabbatical year, but is not allowed to sell it or take a bundle home.

In Leviticus, God expressly promises that He will bless the sixth year with abundant produce if the people of Israel have faith enough to keep the sabbatical year. Not everyone had such faith. The Babylonian exile was directly connected to this failure to keep the sabbatical year. According to the Torah, during exile ‘the land will have its Sabbath’.

During Talmudic times, it became increasingly difficult to keep the sabbatical year. Hillel (110 BC - 10 AD) instituted the Prosbol system, which meant that a creditor would appoint the court to collect his debts. Hillel was criticized for circumventing the law, which only applied to individuals.

When Jews returned to Israel after the galut (exile), the question of shmitah became relevant again. Before the sabbatical year of 1889, Jewish farmers received permission to sell their land to a non-Jew for the prescribed period, thus continuing to have it worked. Many orthodox authorities opposed this solution. Today, some orthodox farmers use hydroponics during the sabbatical year. (Hydroponics is a subset of hydro culture and is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil.)

There are many Israeli farmers who observe shmitah to the full letter of the law without looking for Halachic loopholes. These farms remain completely

idle, and bring in no revenue during the Sabbatical

Year. Special funds are set up by kind donors to help the farmers observe this mitzvah.



## “The Smell of Rain”

On the last day of Sukkot, religious Jews begin to pray for rain. For those of us living in Israel, rain is perceived as a blessing. As we're looking forward to the rainy season to begin, we'd like to share the following story with you. It's related to rain, but in a very special way! The following inspirational (and true) story about 'The Smell of Rain', has been circulating in waves on the internet. It's about a little baby girl, Danae, who was only 24 weeks when she was born. Diana and David Blessing's story became the most widely circulated inspirational stories on the Internet. TruthOrFiction.com verified the story with the Blessings family, who told them that Danae, who by that time was 9 year-old, was doing great.

In 2000, Diana wrote: "Danae is now a lively, beautiful, active, free-spirited, blissful, God-loving fourth-grader. She is in the Gifted and Talented program. Still petite, but growing daily. Loves all animals. Has several of her own. Danae has a compassion for other people that I have never witnessed with another child and I work with children daily. She is a pure joy to be around and is NEVER at a loss for words. When I first began getting response from the story I was startled. I quickly realized that God was working his magic. I praised him for allowing me to be blessed in such a way that I see his well doings each and every day. My husband and I decided that if sharing Danae's story touched even one person, than that is what was meant to be. I know now that it has touched many, many and continues everyday. I am so grateful to know the Lord and to have him so evident before us. I am also thankful for the widespread response and blessings from so many of the people that have received the story and have been touched by it. Hopefully it will continue to spread the news of God's love. Here's the (slightly edited) story:



A cold March wind danced around the dead of night in Dallas as the Doctor walked into the small hospital room of Diana Blessing. The couple braced themselves for the latest news. That afternoon of March 10, 1991,



complications had forced Diana, only 24 weeks pregnant, to give birth to Danae Lu Blessing. At 12 inches long and weighing only one pound and nine ounces, they already knew she was perilously premature. "I don't think she's going to make it," the doctor said. "There's only a 10 percent chance she will live through

the night, and even then, if by some slim chance she does make it, her future could be a very cruel one." David and Diana listened as the doctor described the devastating problems Danae would likely face if she survived. She would never walk, she would never talk, she would probably be blind, and she would certainly be prone to other catastrophic conditions from cerebral palsy to complete mental retardation, and on and on. "No! No!" was all Diana could say. She and David, with their 5-year-old son Dustin, had long dreamed of the day they would have a daughter to become a family of four. Now, within a matter of hours, that dream was slipping away.

As Danae held onto life by the thinnest thread, Diana grew more and more determined that their tiny daughter would live, and live to be a healthy, happy young girl. David however told his wife they needed to talk about making funeral arrangements. Diana said, "No, that is not going to happen, no way! I don't care what the doctors say; Danae is not going to die! One day she will be just fine, and she will be coming home with us!"

As if willed to live by Diana's determination, Danae clung to life hour after hour, with the help of every medical machine and marvel her miniature body could endure. But because Danae's under-developed nervous system was essentially raw, the lightest kiss or caress only intensified her discomfort, so they couldn't even cradle their tiny baby girl against their chests to offer the strength of their love. All they could do, as Danae struggled alone beneath the ultraviolet light in the tangle of tubes and wires, was to pray that God would stay close to their precious little girl. There was never a moment when Danae suddenly grew stronger.



But as the weeks went by, she did slowly gain an ounce of weight here and an ounce of strength there. At last, when Danae turned two months old, her parents were able to hold her in their arms for the very first time. And two months later-though doctors continued to gently but grimly warn that her chances of surviving, much less living any kind of normal life, were next to zero. Danae went home from the hospital, just as her mother had predicted.

Five years later, Danae was a petite but feisty young girl with glittering gray eyes and an unquenchable zest for life. She showed no signs, what so ever, of any mental or physical impairment. One blistering afternoon in the summer of 1996 near her home in Irving, Texas, Danae was sitting in her mother's lap in the bleachers of a local ballpark where her brother Dustin's baseball team was practicing. As always, Danae was chattering non-stop with her mother and several other adults sitting nearby when she suddenly fell silent. Hugging her arms across her chest, Danae asked, "Do you smell that?" Smelling the air and detecting the approach of a thunderstorm, Diana replied, "Yes, it smells like rain." Danae closed her eyes and again asked, "Do you smell that?" Once again, her mother replied, "Yes, I think we're about to get wet, it smells like rain. Still caught in the moment, Danae shook her head, patted her thin shoulders with her small hands and loudly announced, "No, it smells like Him. It smells like God when you lay your head on His chest." Tears blurred Diana's eyes as Danae then happily hopped down to play with the other children. Danae's words confirmed what Diana and the extended Blessing family had known, at least in their hearts, all along.

During those long days and nights of her first two months of her life, when her nerves were too sensitive for them to touch her, God was holding Danae on His chest and it is His loving scent that she remembers so well.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05ip-N0H1lg>

# July-August Activities

**July 13, 2014**, Dr. Tim Sigler was our guest speaker. Tim is Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Studies at Moody Bible Institute. He often is in Israel and the Middle East with student groups to teach. Dr. Sigler is an author in the forthcoming Moody Bible Commentary and an elder at the Olive Tree Congregation in the suburban Chicago area.



**July 27, 2014**, Saying goodbye to a dear family returning to Hong Kong who studied in Israel for a few years. Christy, Gordon and Many Yeung hope to bring student groups to Israel in the future.



**July 27, 2014** Praying for those going away for a shorter or longer period of time.

**Sunday, July 27** evening Seminar with Dr. Catherine Millard on “Rewriting of America’s History”

She has worked for nineteen years at the Library of Congress as a researcher and writer, utilizing the original writings, documents, papers and works of America’s founding fathers as documentation for her books.



**August 24, 2014,**  
Dr. Ramesh Richard is a theologian-evangelist, philosopher-expositor, educator and author who travels around the world, lecturing and preaching the Word of God to non-Christian intellectuals at Harvard to poor pastors in Haiti. He was a study friend of our Pastor Al!

**Available:  
CDs of Rev. Joel McElreath’s  
sermon on the Book of  
Revelation on the Church of  
Pergamus and Thyatira.**

**Write to email:  
jerbapch@gmail.com  
for more info**



But for Grace, my soul had perished,  
Withered as the desert sand;  
Gone to shadows, and tormented,  
But for Grace's perfect plan!  
But for God's unceasing Mercy,  
But for Calvary's sacrifice;  
I had wandered, blind and thirsting,  
Fell to Satan's grim device.  
But the blessed blood of Jesus,  
Shed upon that cruel tree;  
Called me from the ling'ring shadows,  
Saved my soul, and rescued me!  
But for Grace, O Grace perfected,  
But for love's undying flame;  
I had never hoped in Jesus,  
Ne'er had even known His name!  
-Carlos C. Beam



## Reactions from Readers

More and more people around the world ask for an online version (in colour) of JBC news. It's a wonderful way to stay in contact with what's happening in Jerusalem. Some of the articles contain interesting news that is shared with others as well. Here are a few reactions:



80 year-old Audrey Jordan from Australia wrote:

*"Thank you so much for the magazine with the wonderful article that inspired me to give this talk." Audrey used the article about Psalm 139 (the needle-work) and the one about those amazing bacteria in the talk she was invited to give in her home church. The title was: "Rejoice in the gifts; honour the Giver".*

Paul Wiersma, Pastor of the Baptistengemeente Haarlem wrote:

*"Dankjewel voor jullie inspirerende nieuwsbrief." – "Thank you for your inspiring Newsletter!"*

Arthur Gregory wrote:

*"THANK YOU! Your hard work "is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God!" (2 Corinthians 9:12)"*

*"Thank you so much for the news letter . I really am blessed to go through this. Greetings, Mercy"*

*"WHAT a MARVELLOUS newsletter you have yet again produced! A BIG thank you indeed. It is most informative - I learned about Lag B'Omer for example... It was great to read the news of various activities of JBC.....which I miss!" Ruth Campbell.*

**"For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them." -  
Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)**

Established in 1925, the **Baptist House in Jerusalem** is one of Jerusalem's oldest Protestant institutions. Jerusalem Baptist Church (JBC) is a member of the Baptist Convention of Israel and is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States. We operate under the *amuta* of the Baptist Convention of Israel.

Over the years, faithful congregants have joyfully served in many positions throughout Israel and partnered with many denominations and organizations to serve the Savior here. Each Sunday, the worship service is filled with people from many nations, and visitors from around the globe. You may be surprised to find someone from your hometown worshipping with us when you visit!

**The purpose of JBC is to serve the interest of Jesus Christ in this city until He returns.**

Sunday morning Prayer Meeting at 9.30 A.M.

Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.

Children's Sunday School ages K-6. Older children are invited to attend the main service.

Communion: every first Sunday of the month.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Friday Ladies' Bible Study at 9.30 a.m.

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B  
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