

Zot Habrith

This is the covenant



A Journal of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel

Edited by Fruma Spielberg

Special Bulletin

Autumn 99'

Israeli Alliance is moving on...

Many months have passed since I last had the privilege to write for "Zot Habrith." After many long medical complications and other related problems, I am now filled with gratitude and appreciation to our Lord for His great mercies. When the circumstances around me became complicated and difficult, I could feel the grace and love of our God overflowing towards me. He never left me, and gradually, He restored my health completely. There are still other things that need His healing care, but His promise has already been given that He will restore all that was taken and will renew His blessings.

I would like to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your faithfulness in prayer and your acts of kindness. Even though I was called to experience this journey alone and there were moments of loneliness and pain, I always knew that around me there was a united and loving Body who did not spare their prayers for me before our Creator. I could feel your prayers daily.

Today my life is returning more and more to its normal routine. I have now returned to my previous position as President of the Alliance committee. I would like to describe for you the changes and developments that are taking place in the Alliance these days.

The vision of the Alliance is still the same: to strengthen and develop the local body according to its growing needs. The main vision of the Messianic Alliance is to see the Body of Yeshua in the land united in His purpose and in service to the Lord. In order for us to be a light for our people, we need to

show real unity. For many of us it is difficult to understand how we can still be united when our emphases and opinions are so different. As a matter of fact, it is not difficult to have unity, because we all have a wide common denominator in which we can trust each other. We can hold on to our different opinions while at the same time being flexible towards those who

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Roots

"Kol Shofar" (Voice of the Trumpet): The First Journal of Messianic Jews in Israel

In fall 1953, the first issue of "*Kol Shofar*- Messianic Jewish Journal" was published in Haifa. The editor was Moshe Immanuel Ben-Meir who was known in the Messianic Jewish circles in the land since the British Mandate. During the 1930's Ben-Meir held the position of secretary of "The Fellowship of Hebrew Christians (Messianic Jews) in Palestine." During the 1940's he held the same position with the same organization, but it had changed its name to "The Hebrew Christian Alliance of Palestine and the Near East."

In the forward, the reader was told that this journal was meant to fulfill the urgent need to establish relationships among Jews who were disciples of Yeshua and who were spread around the country without knowing each other. Many of the believers kept their faith secret and it was only revealed to the Lord. The purpose of "*Kol Shofar*" was to encourage Messianic Jews everywhere and "put an end to the shameful underground". In those days, many of the believers feared social and economic excommunication. This fear was similar to the fear that existed

among the Jewish congregations in the Diaspora for many centuries. If we compare the situation of those believers in the state to our own situation today, 50 years later, we can clearly say that we do not feel as if we live in the underground. Some of the new immigrants among us might still feel that way, but most of us do not hide our

faith. On the contrary, we and our children speak with confidence about our faith and hope in Yeshua, who is our Lord and Redeemer.

According to Ben-Meir this journal was called "*Kol Shofar* (trumpet)" because of the following reasons: "The Shofar has different sounds, sounds of brokenness and of triumph. *Kol Shofar* will produce all these sounds. In the booklet there are sections that deal with brokenness, the negative side of our lives. Other sections deal with the sounds that are neither bad or good, but do no harm. Lastly, there are sections that deal with the sound of great triumph which will deal with the salvation of God, his love and mercy, and will encourage a life of repentance, faith and victory".

Another writer in the journal, Abraham Ben-Shraga (Poliak), called the believers in the country "to lift up the royal flag of the Messiah in Israel and to proclaim his Second Coming. The congregation of the gentiles is decreasing, and the grace of God is going to return to His covenant people". In other words, Ben-Meir and Poliak were looking forward to a new era where the duty and the leadership of the gentile congregation would decrease while believers from among the people of Israel would gradually move to the central place in the world by teaching the way of Scripture. In addition, they wrote that Messianic Jews should keep the Holy Shabbat and have their prayer and

worship meetings on Sabbath, because "Anyone who despises the holy Shabbat, actually does not believe in the reality of God". From this we can conclude that in those days the keeping of the Sabbath was not an obvious thing to everyone as it is for us today in the land. In those days, many kept Sunday as the holy day.

Originally "Kol Shofar" was intended to be published every two months, but this vision was not carried out as planned. Only the first edition of the journal was published. Seven years went by before another messianic journal of Messianic Jews in the land was published.

By Gershon Nerel

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