

Zot Habrit

This is the Covenant

A Journal of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel



Summer 2003

English Issue no. 5

Looking to the Works of the Lord in Our Days

Presented herein is another issue of the English edition of *Zot Habrit*. The journal *Zot Habrit* is one of the means by which the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel (MJAI) seeks to encourage, support and strengthen the Messianic congregations and the believers in Yeshua the Messiah throughout the land. Various columns describe the activities of the MJAI, others draw our attention to the work of the Lord in the Land in our days.

The Congregation Column of the journal has in the past introduced a wide variety of congregations throughout the land. Elders and Pastors wrote about their assemblies, relating their vision, history, unique characteristics, and the difficulties and problems they face. We are indeed living in a unique time in the history of the church, as the Lord is establishing scores of congregations and home groups all over Israel, in a relatively short time. The Lord is building His body in the Land and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!

This present edition introduces two congregations. One is a Russian speaking congregation in Tel Aviv, and the other is a special congregation situated beyond the mountains and the desert, in Eilat. It is a great blessing and encouragement to read about the work of the Lord in and through these congregations.

Zot Habrit is also a forum for publishing and sharing messages given at the National Conferences of Congregational Leaders, thus enabling the wider body of believers in the country to benefit from it. In this edition we present a message on leaders under the pressure of ministry.

The present edition includes, as well, the regular columns *Roots* and *The Israeli Press on Messianic Jews*. There is also a report on one of the regular activities the MJAI has been organizing in recent years, namely the Jerusalem March.

Messianic Songs Concert

A Concert of Original Messianic songs was held at the auditorium of Kibbutz Shefayim, north of Tel Aviv, shortly before the release of the present edition of *Zot Habrit*. We thank the Lord for this blessed event, and

thank all those who contributed their time and talents towards the success of the Concert. **All the glory and honor to the Lord!**

We hope to present a more detailed report, including pictures, in the next edition of *Zot Habrit*. For the time being, we included two letters sent to the MCLN following the concert.

"Several hundred believers from all over the country got together last week at the auditorium of Kibbutz Shefayim. I would like to thank the MJAI for organizing and sponsoring the concert, and also to thank all who were involved in the production and presentation of this wonderful event. It is rare that we, the body of Messiah in Israel, have an event such as this to be proud of. The Lord blessed us with so many musical talents and gifts. We all came together in unity focused on worship in one Spirit. My prayer is that this example of oneness will be an encouragement for us all, and that the worship of that evening will be like sweet smelling incense to the Lord". (A.G., Tel Aviv).

"We in Eilat would like to say a big 'thank you' for the wonderful concert we participated in... many thanks to the MJAI for the hard work in organizing this special event. Thanks also to all the musicians and singers. We were very impressed by the quality of the presentation and of the new songs themselves. Glory and honor to Yeshua!! It was an unforgettable evening in which we really sensed the unity of the body and the spirit of worshipping the Lord... in the wonderful name of Yeshua" (J&J, Eilat).

The General Conference

The general conference of the MJAI, scheduled for February 2003, will conduct a seminar entitled *The Trinity -- What Do We Believe?* In view of the uproar surrounding the topic following the National Conference in Netanya, and of some harsh statements made in other frameworks, the MJAI decided to hold the seminar on this important issue. Our intention in holding this seminar is that the truth of God regarding the deity of Yeshua the Messiah will find a clear and an unwavering expression.

We pray that the beauty of the Lord will be upon us on that day.

Hanan Lukatz

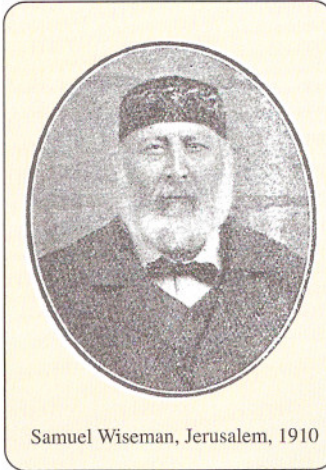
Samuel Wiseman: A Disciple of Yeshua in the New Era Jerusalem

By Gershon Nerel

Samuel Wiseman was born in Tiberias into a Jewish ultra orthodox family on September 25, 1835. We have no information on how he came to believe in Yeshua, but we know that he was baptized in 'Christ Church' in Jerusalem by the bishop Samuel Gobat on January 21, 1857. At that time he was employed as an Arabic teacher by 'The London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews'. In addition, he was a member of the medical staff of the Hospital of the English Mission in the city, where he worked mainly as a chemist (then the word *dispenser* was used). Thus he was able to testify of his faith in Yeshua to thousands who attended the hospital.

Wiseman served for a long period of time as the official translator (dragoman) of the mission in Jerusalem. In addition to English, he was in command of both speaking and writing in several other languages. Wiseman was also known as a specialist in Ottoman law and very skillfully administered the communications with the Turkish authorities. As

a man of great tact, Wiseman found common ground with people of different cultures. He faithfully and humbly fulfilled his roles as both chemist and dragoman for over 40 years.



Samuel Wiseman, Jerusalem, 1910

Wiseman was fluent in Hebrew and familiar with the Talmud. Therefore, he counseled residents of Jerusalem who came to receive his advice and support, among whom were Jews, both Sephardic and Ashkenazi of the old *Yishuv* (i.e. the Jewish population). He helped them all and avoided prominence. During his long lifetime he was a teacher, a friend and a guide to three generations of Jews in Jerusalem who believed in Yeshua. Due to his integrity and good relationships with all parts of society - Jews, Christians and Muslims - he won the appreciation and trust of all who knew him. Samuel Wiseman died quietly in his sleep on June 19, 1920 at the age of 85, and the following day was buried in the Protestant cemetery on Mount Zion.

Our Purposes

To serve the Messianic congregations and believers in Yeshua in the Land of Israel.

To give expression to our Jewish and Israeli identity as believers in Yeshua the Messiah.

To give expression to the unity among the Messianic believers in the Land and to strengthen it.

To build and maintain relations with the Messianic Alliances all over the world.

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