



"So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified" Isaiah 61 v. 3

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NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2009

## THE LORD IS A GOD OF REALITY AND JUSTICE

***"Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)***

*The Lord is interested and active in the real, everyday details of our lives in which He desires for us to give over to Him even in things that do not seem so spiritual, that He may be glorified. He wants us to DELIGHT OURSELVES IN HIM and He will surely bring to pass in blessing and vindicating His people.*

***"Those the Lord blesses will inherit the land." (Psalm 37:22)***

*How wonderful to receive His inheritance coming upon us from his hand of blessing if we obey him. In Isaiah 1:19 it says: "If you are willing and obedient you will eat the best from the land."*

Dear Reader,

We felt it good to write a newsletter after a silence of more than 2 years, a silence not due to any particular reason apart from our own busy active participation living in community, being fully involved in the comings and goings in moving forward in His Kingdom plan as we touch and work with people on a daily basis not only at Alon and its expansion but also beyond the borders of our work and South Africa.

During the last 2 years we have also been the target of the most diabolical, systematic and wicked smear campaign waged by a "mastermind" who made an all-out effort to totally destroy every aspect of God's work called Alon. This type of attack can be expected by any work of God which would earnestly seek to serve God's purposes and to take a stand in these days as the word says that the enemy is like a roaring lion. As believers we need to be alert to this as we give ourselves to His work. Even knowing these things we were shocked to see the cunning, fury and persistence of the attack against the work. Sara and I (Davit) plus our leaders were brought to wicked humiliation nationwide in cheap tabloids and on the web internationally by the most cunning lies in order to destroy and discredit us. ONE OF THE BIG ACCUSERS WHO CAME AGAINST US WITH TOTAL LIES DID SO FROM HIS OWN LIFESTYLE OF ADULTERY AND WORSE. HE IS A BELIEVER THAT WE WISH NOT TO EXPOSE OR MENTION BY NAME. The very people called by the "mastermind" to testify against us publicly have never contacted us in a personal manner regarding any problem with us. They do not know what's happening in this work of GOD called ALON, a work that's been going for 22 years. Some have only visited ALON in our early beginnings and some have asked us for help and support over the years with their financial, spiritual and domestic problems.



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Most recently we have had some very unstable and dysfunctional people, who came to ALON for help. Some of these the mastermind convinced to work with him but, of late, some have returned with sorrow towards us in their wrongdoing. Many saw through his schemes and plans and told us about his approach towards them. It's hard to understand what would motivate people to lower themselves to this ungodly and unbiblical position worse than any worldly way because it is done in HIS NAME against a work of GOD for Jewish and Gentile unbelievers to read in the media with widespread public exposure? Surely most good unbelievers with integrity would never do something so low and evil?

As part of his wicked campaign the mastermind arranged under false pretences for Social Welfare, the Police and the National School Board to descend upon our community and harass us and our children with countless loaded questions in order to close us down. However, each of these departments independently of each other, were greatly impressed by what they had seen in our community and all came to the same conclusion - they had been sent as part of a smear campaign against the work of ALON. These Authorities have given their full endorsement for the excellent work being done at ALON and the Premier's office of our province/state LIMPOPO has praised our children's home as the "**Jewel of the Limpopo!**" AMAZING HOW THE LORD HAS TURNED AROUND EVERY ATTACK INTO OUR FAVOUR - GLORY TO GOD!!!

How we reacted and the stand we took after a silence of 9 months can be read in the article posted in March 2009 on our own website [www.alon.org.za](http://www.alon.org.za).

We are so blessed to report that even during these very difficult times God not only graced us with His power to forgive and not to retaliate but brought blessing upon blessing in everything that we put our hands to in the ongoing expansion of the Alon work. The community is growing not only in Godly Grace but also in numbers and we have seen and continue to see his salvation coming into the hearts of many passing by at ALON. We have appeared in the most positive light in a most popular well-respected nationwide weekly newspaper, respected localized newspapers, high quality magazines and nationwide television without any effort, promotion or desire from ourselves.

Our school **Blue Mountain College** is growing in number, stability and Godly character with authentic change in the lives of many students. It is most wonderful to behold the Godly favour resting upon the school and the learners as we continue to commit it unto Him. The school displays an excellence not only academically but in the lives of the learners who receive much according to the school motto *to equip and prepare learners for life*.

Our children's home, **The Little Oaks Childrens Home**, is growing in such large numbers that we need more workers to assist in working to run the orphanage! We have even been asked to assist in starting and running other children's homes as the Lord has shown us the good way to care for and nurture orphans in His love.



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We had the most successful secular musical performance in our last show season during 2008 called **Spectacular, Spectacular!** which ran for a 3 month season with many hearing the gospel at the end of each performance and a Grand Finale with great worship unto God with believer and unbeliever present.

Our new restaurant/deli in town **Yum Yum**, an offshoot of our successful Mosaic functions venue on the farm, has really taken off and become very popular and trendy in our locality...with its very special “signature” dishes and outstanding gourmet desserts from Rachel’s side of the kitchen.

Our farmer Chris has done very well in developing the agricultural side of the work; planting many more macadamia trees and developing our **Eden Nursery** in supplying many city nurseries with high quality plants and trees. We are blessed with a large area of indigenous bush on the farm which means that rich soil abounds for farming and the nursery. Gad and Peter have also taken on the vision for coffee growing as coffee drinkers have given our home-grown organic coffee a winning signal. They have planted another 3,000 trees and look forward to a good harvest in due time.

Teams from ALON continue to minister into Africa in joining with the church in helping believers move forward in God and bringing the gospel to many, many unbelievers.

Our Base **Petach Tikva** (meaning Door of Hope) in the Cape area of South Africa continues to be used in the most unconventional way in bringing forth HOPE IN OUR LIVING GOD for believer and unbeliever, and also gets used in many ways to be a blessing to community members.



Side view of Beit Rimon

Groups continue to visit at our very special house overlooking the Judean/Negev hills in Israel called **Beit Rimon** which means “House of Pomegranate. “ We thank God that we were able to purchase this freestanding property for cash over the last 2 years.

For many teams

visiting Israel there has been a wonderful experience there of greater reality due to the aspects of servanthood, prayer/worship and daily practical application rather than just visiting in big hotels.

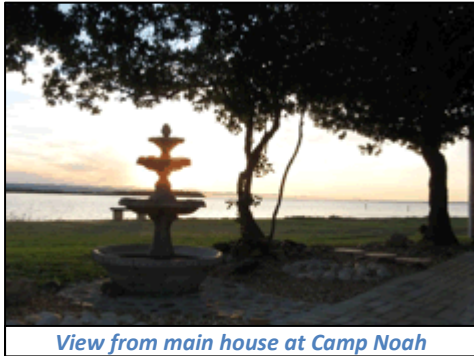


View of the desert from Beit Rimon

We have had the opportunity and gift from God for another choice property that we have resisted for some years and it was also on sale for many years on the open market but somehow God has turned it around towards us. It was entrusted into our care and we then felt to buy it over and renovate it with the finances God provided for us.



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*View from main house at Camp Noah*

This will be called **Camp Noah**. It is at a paradise locality on the river, the sea and nature reserve with various homes that we have transformed from being a literal dump yard into the most beautiful holiday destination with nothing man-made amongst the homes but total nature at its best - an estuary of birdlife, a fishing haven and the



*View from another house at Camp Noah*

sea with miles of unspoilt white sandy beach. This is all just outside the very popular international surfing locality called Jeffrey's bay and we are excited to see it being utilized for multiple purposes.

Our project called **No 1**, which is the most exquisite interior decorating shop on Lake Zurich, Switzerland has taken off with Gunnar and Manu and we had a very successful opening last year with believers and unbelievers enjoying the time together. The vision of the shop is only a step that fits together in sharing the gospel in a strong humanistic environment as well as taking on the responsibility of helping wounded and broken people that are coming together on the premises in being healed and growing in Jesus with REALITY rather than superficial religion. No 1 has been on Swiss TV and top secular publications for weeks running at a time.

Our medical centre in town has expanded with specialised clinics. A hospice or wellness centre, **Palm Springs** is taking shape with all the medical applications getting approved by government and the various departments. Vision is unfolding on the very panoramic setting at the **Mitzpeh** side of Alon farm for this great need to help people and with the great possibility of a retirement village to follow.

Our own Law Firm, the Firm of Chartered Accountants, Auditors and Tax Consultants as well as Architectural Draughtsmen have grown amazingly. They have gained many more business opportunities and much favour in the secular world. Located with the medical centre at our friendly and elegant office park **61 On Boundary**, they are forging new ways of doing business which brings the gospel into the world of business and benefits clients by their efficient way of working together.

It's just such a blessing to see how GOD has provided for us financially over so many years and that we never had to make an appeal for money or manipulate anyone by means of newsletters etc asking for support or finance as GOD has given HIS clear mandate to OPEN WIDE OUR MOUTHS UNTO HIMSELF rather than man as he knows our very needs. We remain totally debt-free on all our properties and all that we own THANKS BE TO GOD!! We have been given GODLY WISDOM in



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utilizing our minds, hands, creativity PLUS business ability given by GOD to create a testimony as a people walking with a REAL GOD IN A REAL WORLD.



David & Joanna

We are blessed with new babies being born at Alon to various couples - Tamar to Denford and Lizzi, Owen to Anton and Kyla, Abel to Daniel and Nono and our own latest grandchild Liv to Gad and Jessica. Our young people and married couples are prospering very much and our most recent wedding was that of David from Switzerland to Joanna from South Africa.

We are as a community (approx 180 people with kids) at an even **GREATER PLACE of UNITY** due to **HIM ALONE** and continue to **WORSHIP HIM** as the **CENTRE** of our community. By His grace alone we have experience thus far in being blessed from above as we **LIVE TOGETHER** in unity. In Psalm 133:1 it says: "**How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.**" We hope to die as best we can to self in the atmosphere of Godly love, Freedom and with **HIS JOY** to whatever could and would steal **HIS** rightful position as the centre in our lives due to our own selfish or self-centred elevation that takes the place of the great **I AM (JESUS)**.

We cry, we laugh, we dance, we play sport, we have fun, we work, we braai (barbecue), we eat well and we travel often as a people in community. We move as a community continually from the practical to the spiritual and *vice versa* in serving his unfolding plan worked out for us by HIM who determines our steps, not according to human ambition, ego or idols but by the ancient pathway, the all powerful **CROSS OF CALVARY** in making us to become HIS disciples and us making disciples of all nations. **WE CAN ONLY DISCIPLE TO THE EXTENT THAT WE OURSELVES HAVE BEEN DISCIPLED.** Unfortunately there are **NO SHORTCUTS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** Godly humility is of great worth in HIS sight and we need to be careful not to confuse it with a religious garment of false humility which carries on it a display of "human sweetness" and "false fruit" that will never secure **REAL GODLY AUTHORITY.**

Bible-believers who follow **YESHUA/JESUS** should adhere to HIS KINGDOM in and amongst us rather than serving the kingdom of the world. HIS KINGDOM is neither Greek nor Jewish, male nor female but "**YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**". The calling from GOD on our individual lives would always be in line with HIS KINGDOM COME. Instead of us taking pride or glory in our birth/ancestry, gifts ,eloquence or schooling we should heed HIS CALL, VISION AND PLAN that is **BORN FROM HEAVEN.**

**Hebrews 3:1:**

***"Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on JESUS, the apostle and high priest whom we confess."***

Rather than being ministry-orientated which can so easily lead to super-spirituality, self-centredness or independence we should become more testimony/lifestyle-orientated in serving others beyond



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ourselves and lose the great "I" of self in the process...YET TO GAIN CHRIST...and in gaining Christ we gain ALL we need and the certainty THAT **IF WE DO IT GOD'S WAY HE WILL PROVIDE** our every need to do HIS will. According to the book of **Colossians** we read that "**CHRIST IN US IS THE HOPE OF GLORY**". In the book of **Ephesians** we are told in **Chapter 3:20**:

***"Now to HIM who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to HIS power that is at work within us, to HIM be GLORY in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."***

The believer's testimony should bring GLORY TO GOD and provoke the unbeliever to seek God. However, believers are often being seen as spiritual / gospel "BUMS" or beggars in the name of Messianic or Christian causes. A GODLY testimony, without legalism, but with GODLY AUTHORITY would have a far better impact on the unbeliever to hopefully bring salvation upon the human heart than man's self-appointed ministries that can often simply be a GREAT ESCAPE FROM LIVING OUT A TESTIMONY WITH REALITY AND TRUTH.

It is God's plan to bring salvation to the Jews and we should COMFORT Israel and proclaim to her that her sin has been atoned for by Yeshua (ISAIAH 40: 1-2). Not all are called to work with the Jews or Israel, but all should pray for the PEACE OF JERUSALEM (PSALM 122:6) and the salvation of the Jews. How we share the gospel should be with sensitivity depending on who we are and how we need to present the gospel to Jew and Gentile. However, we are not to be deceived into coming under a cloak of bondage and slavery in trying to be more Jewish, Greek or whatever else whereby we believe ourselves to be more spiritual or effective. It's not by our efforts but by HIS SPIRIT...AND HIS SPIRIT IS TRUTH. We need a corporate Hebraic Abrahamic heartbeat and lifestyle rather than a Greek, individualistic way wrapped up in marked independence. Messianic and real Christian clichés have become the norm and have often separated GOD's church or BODY because of human pride and exclusivity. This is often due to man's insecurity in needing more in a name, label, tradition or religion INSTEAD OF ALL IN YESHUA/JESUS AND HIS CROSS. Some might not even find the name of JESUS spiritual enough but rather ONLY IN THE NAME OF YESHUA or even HASHEM.

The Bible calls this rubbish and Paul says in **Philippians 3:7+8**: "***But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in HIM...***"

Some time ago we were at a family wedding of mine (Davit) that was conducted by the Rabbi. We were together with many secular Jews to whom we could relate far better than with most religious Christians, except for the absence of our Messiah Yeshua, but with more focus on the REALITY of life than pretence. Growing up as a child I always remember being in our grandparents home on a Shabbat with a Jewish group of people playing poker instead of having a religious cloak and it burned into my memory the WARMTH OF TOGETHERNESS in a great mixture of business, fun, laughter and REALITY (sadly without GOD!). I am for sure not defending the life without YESHUA but just saying



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that unbelievers can sometimes be more REAL and enjoyable than so called believers who take pride in wearing cloaks of religion in Messianic or Christian matters.

Paul says in the book of **Colossians chapter 2**: ***"See to it that no one takes you captive though hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives..."*** We need to be balanced in the Lord, neither captive to any Greek, individualistic way, nor bound to any Judaistic, legalistic way but rather as it states in **Ephesians 2:15**: ***"His purpose was to create in Himself one new man..."***

A gifted songwriter Bob Dylan wrote a song with brilliant lyrics that "you got to serve somebody, it may be the devil or it may be THE LORD. " Unfortunately, we as believers can also serve the devil if we don't yield our own will, idols, bondages, traditions and worldly principles into MORE OF JESUS.

These are just some thoughts on us labouring TOGETHER in seeking to serve HIM rather than ourselves as best we can.

**THANKS AGAIN FOR THE ONES WHO SO SUPPORTED US IN PRAYER AND ENCOURAGEMENT DURING THE DIFFICULT TIME WE HAD TO GO THROUGH AND HELPED US NOT TO CURSE THE "SEASON" BUT TO EMBRACE IT AND TO BLESS IT THOUGH WE WERE HURTING SO MUCH. WE CONTINUE TO BLESS THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED TO DESTROY US AND IT SADDENS US THAT THEY GAVE THEMSELVES IN DOING WHAT THEY DID IN THE MOST UNBIBLICAL AND EVIL WAY.**

**IN HIS LOVE,**

**Davit and Sara for and on behalf of ALON**



*Andrew, Bianca and Leah*

ps: We are also very blessed to have our daughter Bianca with her husband Andrew and their daughter Leah as a wonderful family unit living in Melbourne, Australia. We so enjoyed our first grandchild Leah during our last visit and continue to pray for her health as she was born very prematurely and is in need of very delicate surgery or a miracle from GOD in correcting arteries feeding her brain. She is almost 3 now and totally fine at present but on special medication. Thanks for your prayers!!! Our last visit was sad for Andrew as South Africa won the better part of the cricket against Australia and Sara and I became great supporters of our own team...at least for the moment! It's a blessing to have our son Gad with his wife Jessica (from USA and Europe) and 3 month old Liv Tova with us in the work of ALON - wonderful to see them in their own position with others in their age group developing in GOD's work.



*Gad, Jessica and Liv*