



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

## ALON NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2011

We returned to ALON in October after being away for 4 months from our home base. We were in Switzerland and thereafter at our home in Israel for the haggim/holiday season. In Switzerland we worked together with a team from Alon on the first stage of our own small boutique hotel that will be part of a building we purchased on Lake Zurich...a truly remarkable building overlooking the Lake with nature walks & a small castle used solely for recreational purposes directly in front of us. NO 1, the beautiful interior design/boutique shop (also put together by our team) in the same building continues to draw more and more people to it and is doing very well. You can view it at:

<http://tv.cityguide.com/services/player/bcpid1569844385?bclid=0&bctid=18841981001>



Our vision for this hotel is multi-faceted and includes regular outreach opportunities for Alon's younger generations to have seasons of working in Switzerland and Europe. We hope that this will facilitate some of them to develop into what God has for them with provision for studying/learning or whatever they might need.

Our home overlooking the beautiful Judean/Negev hills in Israel is a wonderful setting for prayer and for seeking God besides being connected with the believers in this locality... and for being a very convenient place outside the business of Jerusalem/Tel Aviv etc., yet close enough to frequent these centres just for the day.

Leaving Israel is always a mix of emotions for us. We feel so at home in Israel having many close friends amongst the secular Israeli community as well as the believers in Yeshua/Jesus. Israel is a God-given Jewish homeland promised to Abraham and to his seed. It stands as a prophetic and biblical sign to us as believers of GOD's plan and is unfolding before our very eyes as we await the return of our Messiah Yeshua/Jesus. Present day Israel is nothing less than a miracle brought about by His hand in 1948 (read more about this at the end of our newsletter). Against all opposition Israel will stand to usher in our Messiah and become Chief amongst the Nations. God's word given to us does not lie and the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem in HIS prophetic time yet to come. Great happenings are yet to develop, not only with Israel and the Nations, but also



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for us - the Body of believers in the earth as the two (Israel and the Church) are interwoven in bringing forth His plan and purpose according to His time clock.

About 30 years ago, Sara and I and our 2 kids left a prosperous lifestyle (with no debt!) in South Africa. We had been extremely content at the time and also lead a ministry back then to bring more of JESUS into the believing and secular community. Our 2 kids were very happy in their Jewish Gan (school) at the local synagogue and we enjoyed good friendships with many.

At that time God started knocking upon our hearts by asking us to give up that season of our lives and to move out by faith into the unknown and unfamiliar. We knew that our destiny was connected with Israel and thought that we would immigrate to Israel and make it our new home but God had different plans for then and for now. At the time Israel was a very different place to what it is today. It was far more primitive and yet a much closer mishpucha (family). We integrated very well and started working in the midst of the secular business Israeli society and our young children spoke Hebrew more fluently than English. We were given a green light for immigration but felt God directing us into what was the other passion/vision upon our hearts for then and now...a life together in community with Him central to our living, our moving and our being...a desire for **reality** rather than for that which is superficial and super-spiritual...

We then left Israel to pursue a life in the following years with other believers from Europe and New York in close community lifestyle as well as with other believing communities in the USA, Canada and New Zealand. It was a rich season of learning more about His ways and being disciplined under the hand of God (and man) with our young kids, Bianca and Gad plus our added baby Alona along the way (Alona went to be with the LORD in her 7<sup>th</sup> year). By then we had already been totally out of money but had never felt to make our needs known to man but only to God in prayer who provided miraculously in great testimonies for us as a family sojourning in the Nations. For many seasons we submitted to close community lifestyle with various Jewish and gentile believers.

In 1986, while living in a community on the Great Barrier Island, New Zealand, God supernaturally imparted a vision/call upon Sara and me independently, at the same time of the day, while we were apart and not aware what the other was receiving.

We knew that we had to return to South Africa to an area totally foreign to us, and to pioneer an international community of believers that God would gather together. We needed to allow HIM to shape it into His doing, flavour, mission and purpose in becoming a messianic body of believers as an indigenous planting of the lord...so that HE WILL BE GLORIFIED !!!!!!! Isaiah 61:1-3 **‘They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of HIS splendour’ (Alon is an Oak tree in Hebrew).**

At the time many South Africans were leaving South Africa due to the political unrest and uncertainty. (Since 1994 large numbers of people have emigrated for various reasons. Fear, prospects of better work opportunities and the perception of a better future for themselves and



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their children etc. are some of the contributing factors). We also had the opportunity to remain in the USA and also in NZ with works of God but had to obey HIS CALL in returning to Africa!!

So here we are today - living together with GREAT VIBRANCY in a very international multiracial, multi-ethnic JEWISH AND GENTILE community and with the same passion/vision shared daily for the past 23 years by the same people that have been put together... but always growing with more people as a group - a people disciplined and prepared under GOD with our two-generational leadership moving the work forward...a sure gift and blessing from HIS HAND...a blessing of unity in HIM with great blessing beyond what we can comprehend...or could ever have imagined.

During our most recent visit to Israel I was asked to share the word at a Shabbat meeting in Tel Aviv. Here is a small part of the word that I felt to share:

We as believers should pursue seeking FIRST the KINGDOM OF GOD . The most important last words of YESHUA/JESUS before His ascension were about the KINGDOM OF GOD and us as believers having to make disciples of ALL NATIONS.

YESHUA said in Acts 1:6,7 that we should not consume ourselves with OUR OWN PLAN in bringing about the restoration of ISRAEL but rather to become **HIS witnesses** in JERUSALEM, JUDEA and SAMARIA AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH...

*We can only become his witnesses if we fix our eyes on YESHUA/JESUS and become more like him in taking self to the cross and becoming a Kingdom people that will become ambassadors of a lifestyle that's central in HIM in learning HIS WAYS. We are called to gain an authentic testimony that has the backbone of togetherness, unity and love which will speak louder than empty words and ministry unto financial promotion and self-gain.*

Our own efforts by might or power will not provoke Israel or a people, Jew or Gentile, to a jealousy but it's *by HIS SPIRIT that HIS LIGHT will ARISE as we become HIS testimony and witnesses - a people shining the light that has been brought about by HIS SPIRIT upon a **people set apart unto HIMSELF IN A LIVING TESTIMONY OF OBEDIENCE, LOVE AND GRACE*** rather than making a name for ourselves and pursuing self-promotion and religious detours in order to escape the cross of Calvary.

In Philippians 2:20,21 we see the word instructing us to live for GOD and others: **'I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interest, not those of Jesus Christ.'**

I believe that only a life together can help to sever our independent, self-centred, ambitious ministry plans which are in direct opposition to HIS KINGDOM PLAN in making us to serve GOD's interest in the earth rather than our own. Selfishness, the disease of the world, is the prevailing malady of the church. Community people moving prophetically will be opposed with great vigour, but they will know the blessing of HIS REALITY IN FELLOWSHIP, and HIS ABUNDANCE!! *Leadership is about serving the people.....not self-enrichment. It is not about power or glory, but SERVICE!!!*



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I believe that **GOD is seeking out FOOTSTOOLS all over the earth** today where HE can make HIS RESTING PLACE (HIS KINGDOM) and HE can build HIS HOUSE as we submit to HIS PLAN that is not about ourselves but about HIM and others.

Isaiah 66:1 **'This is what the LORD says: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?'**

John 4:24 **'God is Spirit, and HIS worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.'**

*Israel will come into its full calling as the MENORAH/FULL LIGHT...a light unto the Nations, but we the Body of believers need to become lovers of YESHUA/JESUS with a passion for a life together...as only that can bring forth HIS FOOTSTOOL AND HIS CALLING UPON US IN BECOMING A MENORAH that will shine HIS LIGHT IN PROVOKING ISRAEL and unbelievers TO A JEALOUSY.*

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ALON**

The 200 people or so which go about living and eating etc. etc. on this portion of land, in the beautiful hills of Africa, are forever moving in the constant atmosphere of His Word, prayer and worship unto YESHUA/JESUS. HIS word is becoming life for us in the daily responsibility of all that we are and do.

We have a wonderful new kindergarten pre-school besides the older **LITTLE OAKS CHILDREN'S HOME** that is growing in numbers regularly. Our primary school has also grown and it is touching to see these little ones getting educated and learning God's Ways from an early age.

*(more news including photos of the Little Oaks Children's Home can be viewed on our website at [www.alon.org.za/Departments\\_ChildHome.html](http://www.alon.org.za/Departments_ChildHome.html))*

Our own High School/College, **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** has just celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> year and we stand in awe as we see young people receiving top class education from committed and qualified teachers. Many students have become believers over these years and we have witnessed remarkable changes in them as they have opened themselves up to HIS LIFE WITHIN. Our Matric students last year (2010) had a 100% pass with many distinctions from our own Alon children.

*(more news including photos of Blue Mountain College can be viewed on our website at [www.bluemc.co.za](http://www.bluemc.co.za))*

We had our best **MUSICAL SHOW**, "Vegas, the show must go on" towards the last months of 2009 and as always we were booked out week after week with a wide variety of people (believer and unbeliever, Jew and Gentile) attending.....and them hearing the Gospel and seeing our life together in a very professional display of not only in music, dance, costumes, lighting, food, service .....but a people working together in servant hood with joy and peace.

*(photos of our show can be viewed on our website at [www.alon.org.za/News.html](http://www.alon.org.za/News.html))*

# ALON אֱלוֹן

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Our very trendy **YUM YUM RESTAURANT** (which featured a fantastic review in SA's main Sunday newspaper and continues to star in EAT OUT Magazine and other top class magazines) has expanded in size and it sits as a beacon of excellence of our life together next to our own business park (Law Associates, Medical Practice, Aids and Diabetes Clinic, Chartered Accountancy Company and Architectural Outlet) in our local town. Not only do we offer professional assistance but also Hope in Jesus. We even have Israelis living in our area that support us continually, and they are growing in numbers here, besides a wide variety of business people that are in very good friendship with us.



*(more news and photos of YUM YUM can be viewed on our website at [www.alon.org.za/Departments\\_YumYum.html](http://www.alon.org.za/Departments_YumYum.html))*

Our coffee business has expanded as a major undertaking of 4000 trees with our harvest getting bigger every year (2 tons of coffee beans roasted in our new roastery)...a sure boutique-style coffee that is organic and of single origin.

New houses and various buildings are going up month after month as the need for accommodation continues to grow. Families are growing and babies are being born. We now have a situation of 5 families here with their own grandchildren on the property. In each case the children returned to the work of ALON, got married and are now having their own children. It is a great blessing for us, the grandparents, watching our children serving GOD in REALITY with a non-religious cloak.

At this stage we are getting into the more final stage of opening up our **WELLNESS CENTRE** or little hospital here on our property.

Our **CAMP NOAH** or holiday retreat for ALON community and friends is a definite "Jewel" given to us by God on the beautiful stretch of unspoilt coastline in the Eastern Cape. It's a tapestry of buildings, houses, art and nature in a setting within HIS PROVISION.

*(more news including photos of Camp Noah can be viewed on our website at [www.alon.org.za/Bases\\_Campnoah.html](http://www.alon.org.za/Bases_Campnoah.html))*

**PETACH TIKVA** continues to be a Door of Hope as various people from Alon visit seasonally in reaching out to believer and unbeliever in its unique setting with 3 homes and 4 smaller homes around its courtyard, pool, fig/olive trees and grapevines. It provides a wonderful setting in the area of the Cape wine lands, mountains and coastline close to Cape Town.



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*(more news including photos of Petach Tikva can be viewed on our website at [www.alon.org.za/Bases\\_PetachTikva.html](http://www.alon.org.za/Bases_PetachTikva.html))*

Teams continue to visit and go between Alon Homebase, our other places and Beit Rimon in Israel.

*(more news including photos of Beit Rimon can be viewed on our website at [www.alon.org.za/Bases\\_BeitRimon.html](http://www.alon.org.za/Bases_BeitRimon.html))*

Teams and people from Alon continue reach out to other nations and cultures and a team of 16 people visited Israel, Egypt and India for a long outreach over December/January.

Extract from a report on the most recent outreach by Joshua:

*What an incredible experience it was to traverse three nations for six weeks, as a team of sixteen people, using seven modes of transport covering over 10 000km on land alone to reach our various destinations. In Egypt we spent time in Cairo and the Sinai desert and were able to share the word of God with many believers, mostly from Islamic backgrounds who face great opposition on a daily basis. For most of the team it was their first visit to Israel. From the Negev to the Galilee there was much to see. Understanding the significance of Jerusalem, sharing the gospel with both orthodox and secular Jews, a kibbutz visit and praying from Beit Rimmon in Arad were some of the highlights.*

*Then it was on to the sights, sounds and smells of India. We were privileged to enjoy a trip on the Ganges river in Varanasi, a 2500 year old city steeped in Hindu tradition. We also able to reach out to remote villages in jungle areas, accessible only on foot and share the gospel in the bustling cities of Bangalore and Mumbai. We thank The Lord for a safe journey and for faithful prayer support from the home base.*

We continue to pursue Seeking First His Kingdom and bow before Him in Living and walking in the Light as He is in the Light so we can have true fellowship one with another...and look forward to HIS PLAN UNFOLDING ON THE EARTH AND HIS RETURN. 1 John 1:7 **'But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.'**

We as believers are in great need of HIS PROPHETIC understanding in these unfolding days but we will be dull to HIS CALL IF we don't submit to simply worshiping HIM and gaining a YESHUA/JESUS LIKE TESTIMONY.

From Revelation 19:10 **'...Worship GOD! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'**

ISRAEL and the Nations are in GREAT need to see a REFLECTION OF YESHUA/JESUS ON THE EARTH AND GOD'S GLORY!!! A people connected to Heaven in becoming HIS FOOTSTOOL ON THE EARTH!! A MERE AUTHENTIC DISPLAY of OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN AND HIS KINGDOM COME.....To turn hearts back to SALVATION and GOD THE FATHER. Are we willing to give ourselves wholly to the LORD so that HE can reveal HIS GLORY to others through our lives??

# אלון • ALON

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Blessings to you IN OUR MESSIAH YESHUA/JESUS,

Davit and Sara plus ALL @ ALON



*(Davit relaxing at the Western Wall)*



*(Sara with granddaughter Liv Tova at home in Israel)*



*(Gad, Jessica and Liv Tova at Camp Noah)*



*(Davit and Sara at Petach Tikva)*

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## **THE LORD IS A DEFENDER AND A RESTORER**

*PS: Some might wonder what happened after the most severe and vicious attacks that plagued us some years ago????*



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God has so blessed us and turned every attack to our favour in opening more and more doors for us and in bringing about more than what we can comprehend at times.

Many believers that were influenced against us in the most devious manner have actually turned back towards us in repentance and restoration. Interestingly, most unbelievers that were exposed to these schemes by the mastermind felt disgusted by what believers could do in the Name of Jesus and did not believe any of it but actually fought on our behalf against it...remarkable!!!

#### Small Testimony:

During our time in Tel Aviv GOD ordained our steps that we should be with an Israeli spiritual leader and his wife at our friend Jacov Damkani's rooftop viewpoint at GILGAL HOTEL for a meeting. The wife felt to confess that they were called and made alert to read the garbage put on the web by believers. The wife entertained reading the very "sick display" that took place at that time on the internet against us and it made her feel dirty and unclean. They knew it was wicked but she was inquisitive and then asked us to forgive her for entertaining the smear campaign in her mind. They then felt to wash our feet and wash every residue that was left behind away from us in every way. We thought it was very profound as this took place at the top of GILGAL as GOD gave Jacov the following spiritual word for this hotel:

Joshua 5:9 **'To-day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you. So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.'**

Continue to pray for God's call on Gilgal Hotel in Tel Aviv and the ministry of the TRUMPET OF SALVATION TEAM in bringing YESHUA's salvation plan into Israel. You can find them at [www.TrumpetofSalvation.org](http://www.TrumpetofSalvation.org)).

AS we have many people passing through Alon for "seasons" of healing and learning it is always encouraging to receive feedback from many that are somewhere in the Nations today.

#### Some small extracts from a man's letter received some time ago:

'I know that I had an incredible amount of issues in my life on the farm. Things are getting better, though. I am walking in the light and I am accountable to others. I am reasonable active and involved in my church. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart especially what has been put in me with regards to submission to spiritual authority in the Church. The love, respect and submission in my spirit is thanks to you at Alon. This makes me effective in my Church, and therefore in God's Kingdom. May this small note serve as an encouragement to you. You may not always see the good fruit you implant in others...'

#### Another extract from a letter received from believers in the Mediterranean region:

'...we just want to say that you made an impact in our lives and that we have never forgotten you, and visiting the farm (ALON) have given us a blueprint of how life in Christ should be. We have always testified to the life we experienced on the farm, even though we were influenced by (I left



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out the name of the person who tried to destroy Alon), nothing can take away the reality of what we saw and felt...please forgive me. We are both very sorry and miss you...we aspire to give our best at (our local church), and in everything we do, another biblical principle we learnt at ALON...'

Extract from believer who lived here for a season during 2008

I have lived in works of GOD, but this experience at ALON has been overwhelming to say the least. Alon is a solid and good place and GOD's Spirit is here without doubt. The boldness of Spirit expresses itself in spontaneous heartfelt praise to our Loving GOD. Alon was not just another meandering experience, but will change me and has changed me.

Thank you ever so much for allowing a stranger into your home and into the homes of Alon. The experience of such sincere and generous individuals is truly rare and certainly will remain with me.

May GOD continue to bless Alon with an even greater abundance. Every single individual has touched me as well as the collective group has brought me to a clear understanding and relationship with Jesus. Our Saviour and GOD our Father manifested in HIS SPIRIT which has allowed the "scales" to fall from my eyes.

Extract from Jewish believers in Yeshua visiting Alon during December 2010/January 2011

Every time we come to you we are jealous of the fellowship and unity of the believers, and what you have at Alon, and truly give thanks to GOD for you all.

Coming to Alon is like an Oasis in the desert for our lives and we came back encouraged, rested and strengthened. Thanks to you all.

Extract from Israeli unbeliever (well known in Israel as a Journalist etc ) who lived with his wife and children for 3 months at Alon a few years ago

I kept a dairy/journal of our visit to Alon Farm and I will read extracts to you next time we meet.

That was a precious time in our lives, and I thank you again for receiving us in your home. The reason I am so fascinated by the runaway success of Alon is that I know how terrible hard it is to create success. I understand entirely that this is Faith-based success or, in your own terms, The Providence of the LORD. Because I am not (unfortunately) a believer, I can only marvel at the result.

Your calling is to bring the JESUS you know into the lives of people, and you do your work through the outstanding example of life at Alon, and your outreach. You have taught your leaders to do it! A cadre of clear-headed, honest-dealing, faith-motivated men who can provide leadership and inspiration.

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### SOME WORKS OF GOD WE SUPPORT

We like to add the names of Works of God every time we release a newsletter and are adding the following so that you can pray for them or give financial support if the Lord so directs you.

#### [Trumpet of Salvation to Israel - www.trumpetofsalvation.org](http://www.trumpetofsalvation.org)

As mentioned above.

#### [Ebenezer Home - www.ebenezer.co.il](http://www.ebenezer.co.il)

A sure God-given call and ministry that started in 1976 in caring for elderly believers who can no longer live independently. A community of older believers, Jews (also holocaust survivors) and Arabs living in HIS GRACE & fellowship.

#### [The voice of the Martyrs - www.persecution.co.za](http://www.persecution.co.za)

A Work that was started in 1967 by the late Pastor Richard and Sabrina Wurmbbrand (Jewish-Christians believers) who themselves were in prison during the communist period in Eastern Europe for being outspoken as Christians and for the Gospel. Most amazing testimony!!

#### [International Christian Embassy Jerusalem - www.icej.org](http://www.icej.org)

Was founded by Christians from around the world as an act of solidarity with the Jewish people's 3000/4000 year old claim (David/Abraham) and connection to Jerusalem. It has been reaching out in practical ways to the people of Israel, while seeking to inform, educate and inspire Christians round the world to stand against the rising tide of hostility and anti-Semitism directed against the Jewish State. The work of the Christian Embassy is diverse, dynamic and well established. Its deeds of love, comfort and kindness are well documented and are a tribute to the millions of Christians who have joined themselves to this Divine endeavour.

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**THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL IN 1948** By Karen in the Negev with information from Yoni Miller.

(Yonni Miller was born 1940 to father Dov and mother Esther, both young Jewish pioneers that left Poland early 1930 to be active builders of a new Israel that at the time was only a vision. He grew up in a house filled with socialist ideology and totally secular. He is an Israeli ex lawyer who became a Messianic believer at Alon about 8 years ago, and a part of Alon Community)

On May 14, 1948 Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, **momentously** announced to the world from the Tel Aviv Art Museum: "We hereby declare the establishment of the Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael – the State of Israel!" But just a few hours later, the Arab armies of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon invaded Israeli territory, determined to extinguish the new country. Israel's War of Independence had begun. The need for an officially recognized and fully operational Israeli military division was clear.



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Ben Gurion himself launched the *Tzva Haganah Leyisrael*, Israel Defence Forces (IDF), twelve days later, on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Headquartered at HaKirya in Tel Aviv, the IDF is comprised of an army, air force (IAF) and navy. It has served Israel in all of its conflicts including the 1967 Six Day War, the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the Lebanon Wars of 1982 and 2006. It has also performed military operations, such as the spectacular rescue of Jewish civilian hostages at Entebbe Airport, Uganda, in 1976.

The IDF began as a hastily assembled structure that was essentially made up of new immigrants from Europe and the paramilitary organizations *Lehi*, *Irgun*, *Palmach* and *Haganah*. The latter groups had been resisting the British occupation of Palestine and defending Jewish communities against Arab attacks since before the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947. These formations became one army and swore an oath of loyalty to the State. Ze'ev Schiff notes in his *History of the Israeli Army*: “An official uniform was introduced, and ranks were created. The Chief of Staff of the *Haganah*, Yaakov Dori, became the new Chief of Staff of the IDF, with the rank of Major General.”

At the outset of the 1948 struggle, Israeli fighting capability appeared as a terrifyingly poor match for the military prowess of the well-equipped and trained Arab coalition. Israel was initially able to mobilize just 18,000 troops who entered into combat with outdated firearms, one tank, nine light aircraft and five cannons. Some of the soldiers had recently arrived in Israel after surviving the Holocaust and had never held a gun. Weaponry, tanks, ships and planes were sent from abroad during the course of the year-long hostilities but on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the destruction of the Jewish state seemed a definite possibility.

The War of Independence was Israel's most devastating and difficult battle in which 6,000 Jews were killed – one percent of a fledgling population of 600,000. However, against all odds, the Arab armies were routed, and Israel won. “The Jews had a resolve to fight to the bitter end,” Schiff explains.

“Before the war was over,” he continues, “Jewish forces had battled with the regular armies of five Arab states. The Jewish force began as an underground organization but emerged from the battle as an organized national army of twelve brigades.” By 1992 the IDF was rated the fourth most powerful military force in the world.

Yoni Miller is a believer in Yeshua and a veteran Israeli tank commander. “The only explanation for this victory is that God was with us,” he states.

*‘Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you. Be strong and courageous. Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go’* (Joshua 1:3-9).

These are the words with which new recruits are inducted into the IDF. The 1967 Six Day War (whose name was chosen in remembrance of the days of Creation) is an illustration of what that Scriptural promise might look like in modern times.

The fighting took place between June 5 and June 10, 1967 against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The Arab states received military assistance from a number of other Muslim countries as well, including Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Egypt had sent 1,000 tanks and 100,000 soldiers to its border with Israel and had



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refused to allow Israeli ships to pass through the Tiran Straits. These actions, following ongoing strife between the two countries, were considered belligerent by the Israeli high command. The IDF was mobilized to prepare for combat.

Yoni Miller was given orders to report to his unit. At that time he was a 27 year-old reservist in charge of a tank battalion. He remembers the amazing events of June 6<sup>th</sup> :

“In a pre-emptive air strike, Israel bombed the air forces of the Arabs. All of their planes were wiped out in a few hours, giving Israel total control in the air. My team and I were commanded to go into the Sinai Desert with tanks, and we fought our way to the Suez Canal. I was so frightened I later discovered I had wet myself. But after the initial shock of going into a heavy conflict, there was no time to be afraid and I focused on leading my group and on doing what needed to be done.”

In only six days, the IDF conquered the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. In less than a week Israel’s land had tripled in size. In his book, *Saga– Israel and the Demise of the Nations*, Ramon Bennett made this comment about Israeli wars: “The power of man, no matter how great, is, compared with Divine power, like a toy tossed in a tornado.”

For the first time in two thousand years, a unified Jerusalem was back in Jewish hands. At 10:00am on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1967, IDF paratroopers liberated the Western (“Wailing”) Wall and the Temple Mount. Commander of the brigade, Motta Gur, announced on his radio: “Temple Mount is in our hands! I repeat, Temple Mount is in our hands!” It is reported that battle-weary soldiers began to cry with relief and happiness. The Chief Military Rabbi, Major General Shlomo Cohen, blew the shofar at the Wall and prayed: “This is the day we have been yearning for, let us rejoice in it!”

However, with the newly-gained ground, one million Arabs also came under Israeli control. The political implications of the conflict were tremendous, altering the face of the Middle East, and the work of the IDF, to this day.

Yoni describes the outcome of the Six Day War: “After 1967, all the territories were taken and my reserve duty consisted not only of carrying out drills with tanks in the desert, but also of police work in the territories that had been captured. I was sent into Gaza as a soldier that keeps the peace. Gaza used to be very friendly. I would sit and drink coffee with local Palestinians and go to the bank to cash checks. However, everything changed after the first *Intifada* (Palestinian uprising of 1987). They began to throw rocks at our jeeps and it was no longer safe for soldiers to be there alone.”

It is well known that the IDF is unceasingly engaged in defending the State of Israel against her enemies. That this tiny country the size of New Jersey continues to exist in the face of extraordinary opposition is considered by many to be a miracle. Indeed, Gabi Ashkenazi, Chief of Staff of the IDF since 2007, recently told youngsters taking the International Bible quiz for Youth that “It is no accident that the IDF swears in its soldiers with a weapon in one hand and the Bible in the other.”

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