



Sent by and Support Address:
Calvary Baptist Church
1539 Merritt Blvd. • PMB # 215 • Dundalk, MD 21222
Pastor Stacey Shiflett • 410-285-4129

301.712.5270
johnsasser@cleaninter.net

Nov/Dec 2023

I have dreaded and postponed the writing of this newsletter. The last couple of months have been a roller coaster of emotions. When we returned from Israel after the war started our schedule filled up quickly. Almost every night I was preaching somewhere. Prophecy conferences or special days focusing on Israel seemed to be the focus. It was incredible watching the Lord work. People were getting saved, and the saved were being strengthened in their faith. Many churches started reaching out to us in helping with providing financial resources for the people of Israel. My oldest son Cody and I along with other missionaries with the Hope of Israel began to purchase items to carry over to help with those involved with this war against terrorist. We not only wanted to help provide physical help to the Israeli defense force (IDF), but we wanted to get the gospel to them anyway that we could. We had a website built that introduced baptist and why baptist stand with Israel. On this website there were links to receive a free New Testament as well as the gospel. Every item that we take over is labeled either with a sticker with a QR code to the website or cards placed in the items. Some of the items that we were loading were: tactical first aid kits, hydration packs, tourniquets, and even sharpies with the website printed on them. Believe it or not the sharpies are in high demand, they are needed to write on the tourniquets when applied. We knew this first trip would be a learning experience for us as well. Getting everything thru the airport was very challenging, but thru much prayer we prevailed. We landed in Israel early on Dec 8th and had several hours before checking into the Airbnb we were staying at. We chose a location in the center of the country half way between Gaza and the Lebanon border. This would allow us easy access either direction depending on which way the Lord would open the doors for us. Since it was Hanukkah as well, I had my Hanukkah tract translated into Hebrew and printed there. We drove up to the Lebanon border to where my apartment is and picked up the gospel tracts that we planned to distribute as well. After a long day of no rest we finally went to bed. About two hours later I received a phone call from my youngest son. He came home from work and found his mother collapsed on the floor. When he called, the paramedics were already there, but it was too late. Apparently my wife had a brain aneurysm that morning. She was now in the presence of her Savior, in whom she loved and served faithfully for so many years. Needless to say we were absolutely devastated, we didn't have any prior indications of this happening. Having only about 2 hrs sleep within the last 30+ hrs I was completely exhausted and overwhelmed. I laid down for about 2 more hours. We were staying on the Mediterranean Sea, that night it stormed violently all night. When I got up around day light I stepped out on the balcony. The first thing I saw was a rainbow directly in front of me. It was surrounded by extremely dark stormy skies. The Lord began to speak to my heart. He assured me that no matter how dark the storms may be, He will be there, and be there He has! His strength and peace has been unmeasurable in our lives. He has taken and continues to take our broken hearts and fill it with His grace and love. I can honestly say that His goodness and love is truly amazing! I am so grateful for the

thirty years of marriage that we had. The Lord used her in so many ways to mold me and make me to be the man that I am today.

It was an amazing funeral service, the Lord was exalted and my wife was well honored. I am absolutely amazed at the many testimonies that I have received from people all over the world that she has impacted. Many of whom reached out to me saying that they were in church because she would constantly call, text, or send them something in the mail to try and be an encouragement. Likewise, many pastors wife's, have said the impact she had on their lives have helped them to stay close to the Lord and committed to following their husbands. She always told people "God has not called me to Jewish missions, I love the Jewish people and want to see them saved. God has called me to follow my husband." That is what she did, she is and will be deeply missed. I have taken some time off in traveling to heal with my family. I've only preached off twice since her passing. Traveling the first time was extremely hard without her. I am learning that the 1st times are very difficult. God greatly blessed the service, I think he probably did more for me then He did for anyone else. The last service I preached we had two first time visitors come forward to receive the Lord. One of them told me afterwards that she was running for congress. What a blessing it would be if everyone in congress would know the Lord. The Lord opened many doors for the group that was there in Israel. We have continued to get supplies in and get them ready to take another load back over. Lord willing at the end of January we will be taking our next trip to Israel. We have a large quantity of items for the IDF that we are taking. I have been in contact with some IDF soldiers. One of the big needs that they have difficulty getting is armored vests. We have ran into many complications getting them from here to there. We have found a company in Israel that we can purchase them from. They are a lot more expensive there, then here. We plan on purchasing 14 for a unit that is currently fighting in Jenin which is in the West Bank area. God has knit my heart with one of the soldiers in that unit. We are praying for their safety but also for their salvation. Lord willing we plan on taking short trips over every month, taking more supplies in as the Lord provides. If you would like to help financially in this effort please send it to our support address and mark it in the memo "Israel relief". Please be in prayer for me and my family during this time as we are still mourning, also pray for us as we try to navigate thru life without her. I wish I would have taken the time and learned all that she did and how she did it. As I'm writing this I still don't know how she sent all these newsletters out, I have much to learn. I am overwhelmed with the cooking, cleaning and everything else she did. Of coarse my two sons that are still at home have been incredible in helping me. I would like to thank everyone who has reached out to our family. Your support, either financially or prayerfully has been such a blessing and encouragement to us.

**Keeping our eyes on Him,
Bro. John Sasser**