

עיר דוד CITY of DAVID Messianic Synagogue

Shalom City of David Family!

It is at times like this when we realize how dear we are to one another! We are such a close-knit community that when we are not together, we all really feel it. The words of Rabbi Shaul tenderly describe how Janet and I feel towards you,

"Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you, not only the Gospel of God, but also our own lives because you had become very dear to us."

(1 Thess. 2:8)

We love you, we miss you and we are praying for you regularly!

But God is able to go further than that - He is with you right now, right where you are. This is the miracle of the resurrection. Yeshua returned to heaven that He might send the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, to dwell inside of you. That is as close and personal as it gets. What a living, abiding and continuous miracle! We are never alone!

I have some important things to share with you.

#1. The synagogue is now closed to the public.

However, due to the nature of our work in helping people (counselling, helping the poor and needy, shopping for people, broadcasting, etc.) we will be able to maintain a small staff for phone calls during the week and a small team for broadcasting our live-stream Shabbat service on Saturday mornings at 11:00am. I have been in touch with our lawyer three times about this as well as another believing agency of which we are members.



#2. Starting next week, we will be launching two exciting initiatives:

- Monday night online Bible Studies at 7:00pm – This will be using the Zoom platform. Please do not be intimidated by this! It is easy to use and someone can walk you through it by phone if you need help. If you would like to participate you must reply to this email by Friday and request an invitation to the Bible Study. This seemed to us to be the easiest way rather than send everyone an invitation. We will then explain how to access and use Zoom.
- The first Bible study will be this Monday, March 30th at 7:00pm (led by me). It will be a shorter, one-week study entitled, “A Double Portion of Boldness”. This will help us to keep it simple and work out any kinks that may arise. After that, the studies will last about three weeks and be led by a variety of people. Each one will be about 75 minutes (an hour and fifteen minutes or so).
- Wednesday night online prayer group meetings at 7:00pm – This too will be using the Zoom platform. This can be accessed by computer, smartphone or regular phone. These prayer meetings will each comprise about 6-8 people including a prayer leader and will last about 35-40 minutes. There will be some specific focus to each group, but also time to pray for personal needs. If you would like to participate you must reply to this email and request an invitation to the Wednesday night online prayer group by Friday.

I am very excited about these two initiatives and believe the Holy Spirit will be present at both the Monday night Bible Study and the Wednesday night prayer groups.



#3. I know that some of us are being hit hard financially at this time.

As in the days of Joseph, God has given us grace to store up some finances to help members of our congregation with essentials such as food, medicine and bills (electric, water, heat, phone, internet, etc.). Please let us know if we can serve you in this way. This is the blessing of being part of Messiah's Body. When we are in need, we help each other! To request this, either write or call the office. And remember, it is the Lord who provides this!

#4. For those of us who still have an income, I want to encourage you to be faithful with your tithes and offerings.

This week we received less than half of our average weekly offering. It is easy to give online. Just go to "cityofdavid.com" and click the "Donate" button. It will take you to a "PayPal" page. You do not need a PayPal account to give. There are two buttons – "Donate with PayPal" or, "Donate with a Card." If you do not have a PayPal account, press the "Donate with a Card" button. Then use your credit card to give.

I want you to know that we are here for you. Please feel free to call the office for prayer or whatever else you may need. But best of all – God is with you!

Let's remember the words of the song we frequently sing together...

*Elohim Lanu Machaseh va'oz, ezra b'tzarot nim'tsa meh'od;
God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble;*

*Adonai Tzi'vaot imanu, mizgav lanu, Elohei Yaacov, Selah, Selah;
The Lord of Hosts is with us, The God of Jacob is our stronghold, Selah
(Pause and Reflect) (Psalm 46:1, 7).*

AMEN!!!

With much love in Yeshua,
Rabbi Jeff

