



February 2013



Israel Mercy Mission
Showers of Blessing Tour
Oct 11 - Oct 22, 2013

Dearly Beloved in Messiah,

God is Love! ♥

There are seasons in our lives when a deep knowledge of the love of God enables us to persevere, trust and even experience joy, in the face of adverse circumstances. Love is the most powerful force in the world, and God is Love. Man will never be able to fathom how awesome the love of God is. The Amplified Bible expresses this love in 1 John 4:16: *"And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience), and believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us. God is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him."*

Dwell and continue. These are important words when considering the love of God. To dwell in love is to live in, to abide in, to make one's home in Love—to make one's home in God. *"...for in Him we live and move and have our being..."* (Acts 17:28). Dwelling and continuing in the love of God also includes embracing the truth that NOTHING can separate us from God's love, once we have become His children through receiving the gift of His Son, the Messiah Yeshua. *"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord"* (Rom. 8:38-39).

While God's love is unconditional, there seems to be (according to Yeshua's words in the Brit Hadasha) an important connection between experiencing God dwelling with us and obedience to His Word: *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him"* (John 14:23). Since 1973, we have tried to be obedient to God and His Word. At various times, our thoughts have been, "How can we disobey Him, when God has been so good to us?" "Are we going to start disobeying Him now, after all these years?" No. "There's no way we can resist such Love." We have found that 1) obedience is better than sacrifice, and 2) obedience opens a door to the presence of God, and to a personal revelation of the love of God.

Our Love: Imperfect ♥

While God's Love is perfect, ours is not. We are in the process of being perfected, becoming mature in love. The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:18 that *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."* This became reality for me (Jamie) when I received the diagnosis of a malignant tumor in my breast after a biopsy. The prospect of a saga with breast cancer was traumatic for me. Was there fear? Yes. Fear of the unknown. Was God upset that I was afraid? I thought so, until I remembered Psalm 56:3-4: *"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?"* My next thought was, "Lord, I don't have time for this! If I have to go through breast cancer, there needs to be a lot of fruit from it. I mean lots of souls, not just one." (I was referring to the time I had a kidney stone, was in the hospital for one night, and led one person to the Lord.) Breast cancer merited an entire harvest! I was trusting a word given to me by a local Messianic rabbi's wife: *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring about as it is this day, to save many people alive"* (Gen. 50:20).

Love Guides ♥

Trust. That's what it came down to. Confidence in the God in whose love I have been dwelling since 1973. I belong to Him. He promised that His Spirit would always guide me. I began to sense the Lord speaking to me through the devotionals that I read each morning, and through His Word that I read at the same time. For example, from **Jesus Calling**, I read: "Learn to appreciate difficult days. Be stimulated by the challenges you encounter along your way. As you journey through rough terrain with Me, gain confidence from your knowledge that together we can handle anything. This knowledge is comprised of three parts: your relationship with Me, promises in the Bible, and past experiences of coping successfully during hard times." (See David in 1 Samuel 30:6)

I have always relied heavily on promises from God's Word. In fact, at one time I thought about writing a booklet titled: "*Ken v'Amen*" (Yes and Amen) based on 2 Cor. 1:20: "*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him, Amen, to the glory of God through us.*" The first promise I claimed is found in the blessing that Jacob gave to his son Joseph: "*By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb*" (Gen. 49:25). At first this seemed contradictory. Was I experiencing a blessing? On the surface, no. But with God, we have to go deeper. I realized that through early detection (and the fact that the mammogram showed nothing, but an ultrasound did), God was saving my life. What the enemy wanted to curse, God wanted to bless.

Next came Psalm 62:1-2: "*Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation (Yeshuati). He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.*" O.K., maybe moved a little, but not greatly moved. A diagnosis of cancer is unnerving, especially to a woman. Our emotions can temporarily go into overdrive. Our imagination can be less than sanctified. When we are caught by surprise, we can lose our spiritual balance. But God! He is NEVER caught by surprise.

I taught my weekly Bible study in our home and felt a little weak afterwards. I didn't want to let God or others down. I wanted to be strong, have faith, trust God and sail through this adventure unscathed. But instead, I cried, until according to Neil, I finished mourning. Then, I knew that God wanted me to go to Houston, Texas, where two of my dearest friends had gone for treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center and had been very blessed by the warmth and expertise there. My insurance to cover this out-of-state hospital took effect on Dec. 1, 2013, the month of my 65th birthday. God knew. While it usually takes months to get an appointment at MD Anderson, I had one within the week. Our contact person at scheduling was named Jesse. (I eventually met him and gave him one of my books.) The plan was: Fly to Houston, undergo further testing, book surgery, fly home and return at the appointed date. It did not happen that way. God spoke to me and said, "I don't have time for this, either."

Love and Gratitude ♥

As I prepared for our trip to Houston, I spent more time than usual at the piano, worshipping the Lord, singing love songs to Him. I sensed deeply that He wanted me to thank Him—for saving me, for loving me, for keeping me, for being my Healer and the Lover of my soul. I knew, because I know God, that He had a plan that involved Houston, and I had to thank Him in advance by faith, that His plan was a good one. It was between Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, and there was so much to be grateful for. The Lord had provided an amazing doctor (a sister in the Lord) locally who was praying for me and giving me guidance. We celebrated the first night of Hanukkah with our son Jonathan and his wife Nancy, with Neil and I helping to make latkes for their friends. I was reminded in one of my devotionals that God told us to give thanks in everything, since thankfulness takes the sting out of adversity.

On November 30, 2012, as I was at the piano, playing from sheet music and books gathered over the years, I noticed how many of the songs and choruses mentioned "weakness." "Let the weak say I am strong..." "You are my strength when I am weak..." This reminded me of 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will*

rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Messiah may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Messiah's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." Something neither logical nor natural happened to me that day: The spirit of joy descended upon me, and I laughed and cried and laughed some more. Very supernatural. This is something that I have experienced quite a bit over the years, but I was taken completely by surprise, given the circumstances. **But God!** He was showing me that the joy of the Lord is indeed my strength.

God was speaking to me as I thanked him for holding my life in His loving hands: "The time has come for the resurrection of the bride. This is all part of The Plan." I then recalled that earlier that day, as we ministered to the elderly at our weekly Shabbat service in the Independent Living Home, I had prayed silently for God to show me a sign. I asked Him to make a lady who never opens her eyes during the service, open them and look at me. She did! She woke up from her usual stupor, and each week is becoming more and more alive. I lay hands on her and minister God's love to her every Friday morning. God is going to resurrect His spiritually dead Jewish people! Thank you, Abba.

Healing Love ♥

In the days prior to flying to Houston (Dec. 10, 2013), we listened to a CD as we traveled in our car. It is **Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures** and has healing promises from God's Word in both English and Hebrew. My two favorites are: "*O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me* (Ps. 30:2). *Adonai Elo-hai shi-va-ati e-le-cha va-tu-pa-eni* and "*Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise*" (Jer 17:14). *Re-fa-eni Adonai ve-era-fe ho-shi-eni ve-ee-va-she-ah ki te-hi-la-ti ata.*

On December 11, 2012, I had follow-up testing done to confirm the diagnosis from Ft. Lauderdale. We were then scheduled to meet the next day with the surgeon who had been assigned to me. What happened between December 11, 2012, and December 12, 2012, involves a lesson that I believe we all need to learn in order to have a victorious 2013. I lit our Hanukkah menorah in our hotel room on the 11th, slept soundly, and awoke thinking, "God is caring for me. Two great loves are with me (God and Neil). Perfect love casts out all fear. There are lots of people praying for me. God will answer their prayers."

However, I still felt as if I were going to the "principal's office" that day. I pictured a very serious man in a suit behind a large desk who would tell me the results of their tests and pronounce my fate (even though I knew very well that only GOD controls my future). What had I done? I had left the present (which is the only place we can find God) and moved into the future (projecting possible scenarios from worry that may never come to pass). God is the Great I Am. We leave His presence when we leave the present. Yeshua taught this truth to His talmidim (disciples) when He said, "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble*" (Matt 6:34).

Love Surprises ♥

At 10:00AM, 12/12/12, the surgeon's Physician's Assistant (PA) met with us to explain the results of the previous day's tests. The results were identical to the ones from Ft. Lauderdale, so they were confident that we were dealing with early detected, stage 1 cancer. The PA was a sweet believer, and after sharing about the Lord for a while, I gave her a copy of **A Kiss A Day**, the devotional book I wrote with the roses on the cover. Hannah told me that the surgeon would see me shortly.

What happened next was nothing short of amazing. A kind, young looking man entered the examination room, looked at me and said, "I love roses. I grow them in my garden." (I guess he had seen the book I gave the PA and wanted one, too!) Then he said, "So tell me, how are you handling all of this?" "Well," I said, "after the initial shock, I decided that God has a plan, and I'm trying to flow with it." The surgeon told Neil and me that he is a Jewish believer, the son of a Holocaust survivor, and not well understood by his Jewish colleagues because of his belief in Yeshua. We shared about our ministry and were amazed to hear this surgeon say, "I have to tell you what a blessing and honor

it is for me to be able to operate on you. In fact, I am thrilled to have this privilege." At that moment, the spirit of joy filled the exam room, and the surgeon and I burst out laughing in the Spirit. He didn't seem to understand what had just happened. (Neil says that if he hadn't been there to witness this, he wouldn't have believed it.) This was definitely not your typical visit to the "principal's office."

The surgeon wanted to schedule an operation for the following Tuesday. This would mean waiting a week in Houston, and missing the Messianic conference and my 65th birthday celebration in Orlando on Dec 21. I asked him if he could please perform surgery on me the next day. He was available, but the operating room was full. Neil and I asked the doctor to please see what he could do. We would pray. About twenty minutes later, a nurse came in to tell us that there had been a miracle. The other surgeons had agreed to move their surgeries around so that mine could be squeezed in.

Love Reaches Out ♥

My dentist had asked if we would be willing to share the Lord with a dear friend of hers, an ER doctor, who has worked at MD Anderson for many years. The only possibility was the night before surgery. So, off we went to dinner with a lovely, brilliant doctor from Puerto Rico. The Lord blessed our time together, she was receptive, and she agreed that it was time to get serious about God in her life. We prayed for this precious doctor and gave her **Un Beso Para Cada Dia** and a **Four Spiritual Laws** tract. (We came to Houston loaded with materials.)

While seeking the Lord on the day of surgery, I remembered that I had dreamed about the mother of the anesthesiologist (whom I had not yet met) and mentioned this to him when I finally saw him. He is from Egypt and was shocked when I told him that God had me pray for his mother. His comment: "Why didn't He have you pray for ME?" Interesting.

It was the fifth day of Hanukkah, and I read the following in my **Jesus Calling** devotional book: "You became a cleansed temple of My Holy Spirit, who is able to do in and through you immeasurably more than you ask or imagine." As I was prepared for surgery, we had another wonderful session with the surgeon. Neil prayed for him, and, at his request, prayed for his assistant. My final words to this precious doctor were: "Today is the fifth day of Hanukkah. The Maccabees found that the Temple in Jerusalem had been defiled, and they cleansed it. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It has been defiled by this cancer. God has chosen you to cleanse it today." He said, "Let's do it." The operation was at 4:00PM on 12/13/12. I was discharged from the hospital at 7:00PM the same day. By 8:00PM, we were at the hotel lighting our Hanukkah menorah. God is Faithful!

Pursue Love! ♥

We praise God for a good report: clear lymph nodes and margins. Now we need clear direction. There are many options and many opinions. We just want to follow the Lord, to do His will. He wanted me in Houston, and He may want me somewhere else. His Kingdom is my first priority. My Father will take care of me. I just need more of Him. We covet your prayers for the next step in my healing.

My prayer for 2013 is one found in A.W. Tozer's book, **The Pursuit of God**: "O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for MORE. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, 'Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.' Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Yeshua's name. Amen."

Love in Yeshua, Neil & Janice

P.S. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVING INTERCESSION. IT AVAILED AND WILL AVAIL MUCH!

JUST FINISHED A MEETING WITH PAUL WILBUR. HE AGREED TO ALLOW US TO HAVE 100 COPIES OF HIS BRAND NEW CD YOUR GREAT NAME. IT WON'T BE AVAILABLE IN STORES FOR ANOTHER MONTH. ORDER YOURS TODAY.