

*« We are hard pressed on every side, but **not** crushed;
perplexed, but **not** in despair; persecuted, but **not** abandoned;
struck down, but **not** destroyed.*

*We always carry around in our body the death of Yeshua,
so that **the life of Yeshua** may also be revealed in our body »*

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Shalom Dear Friends ! Greeting from Kfar Saba, Israel.

These verses reflect the season of many of our lives here at Hamaayan. **We have witnessed the death of loved ones, health problems and sicknesses, road accidents and challenging family issues.** These issues are a reminder of **the fragility of our existence** here on Earth. We also understand **our complete dependence on our God and Father** who sustains us with His mighty Strength, Wisdom, Love and Comfort.

On a more encouraging note, we have also witnessed in our midst **the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit in bringing revelation and salvation** to the lost, **repentance and a change of heart** to the backslidden, **strengthening** of the faith of the youth and our young soldiers, and ministry to the elderly and the afflicted. We continue to look to The Lord for raising up more workers into the promised Harvest (**Luke 10:2**) and to multiply leadership with more opportunities for service and growth.

Please pray and join with us for the coming events:

- March 1st : couples ministry and dinner
- March 2nd : feeding the homeless and outreach to the needy in Tel Aviv
- March 3rd : ministry to the women with prayer and spa
- March 7th : the memorial service of our dear brother and friend Dr. Rick Sharp.
- March 18th-21st : 3 days of fasting and prayer
- March 22nd: Our Purim celebration and outreach

When you read the Tanach (Old Testament), you can see the various times when countries around Israel tried to annihilate her, yet without success. Yet, the threats were very real and costly. Only when Israel turned to God, she was truly delivered and safe. Today, we face the same threats from our neighbors. **Every day, we hear about a possible war.** We can see when we travel our highways our army tanks moving to strategic places on our northern borders in order to prevent a possible attack.

We recognize that **we must, as believers, seek God for our protection as a nation.** We remember from the books of the Bible how **God has used these threats to bring His people closer to Him,** and the blessed results.

As we will soon celebrate the feast of Purim (book of Esther), we are reminded how the story of Esther is just as real today as it was 2500 years ago. Persia (today Iran) threatens us daily with her taunts and her support of Hamas and Hezbollah. Israel is under the same threat today, with the same need to seek God as a nation for her protection. **On March 18-20, we will be fasting as a congregation for the safety and protection of Israel, the salvation of our nation and for the guidance of our members and congregation.** These dates are the anniversary of Queen Esther's fast for the safety of the Jewish nation against Haman in the Book of Esther.

We invite you to join us in this fast. May the God who protected us then, protect us now.



One of our home-group weekly meeting



Youth group weekly meeting

Prayer Items :

- For **upcoming national elections** here in Israel.
« Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them ». **Ephesians 5:11**
 The time has come to expose the unfruitful works of darkness that does not bring life. Remember John the Baptist was beheaded because he challenged the immorality of King Herod. Let's pray for godly leaders with godly wisdom and true thirst for righteousness.
- **For God to expose the immorality and corruption** in our society and in our hearts : the "alternative" lifestyles, the rise of gender confusion and the tens of thousands of abortions of innocent babies. That we would repent, and He would forgive our sins.
- For **the salvation and protection of our nation**, to return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
(Ezekiel 36:25-26)
- Pray that we will learn to **trust in God and His protection** rather than the army, or the strength of our own flesh.
(Psalm 20:7-9)
- For God to **strengthen the Body of Yeshua**, each of the believers in the Land, as well as **the unity and protection** of the spiritual leaders.
- For **wisdom for our military and the soldiers** to make the right choices that would honor God. Pray for the believing soldiers, to continue their walk of faith in challenging circumstances.
- **The harvest** of believers in our city. We are currently studying a weekly series of the example of Yeshua in sharing the Good News to the lost.
- **The new believers** – for growth & boldness in their faith.
- For **guidance and direction** to our congregation's leaders for the call He has on their life.
- For **healing** of our members - body, soul and spirit, to complete the call we have individually and corporately.
- For **finances** necessary to finally purchase the remaining floors of our building.

We are grateful for your prayers and partnership.
 Thank you for all you mean to us !

Hamaayan Team

Shalom Dear Friends ! Greeting from Kfar Saba, Israel.

Last month, **for the first time since 2014, two rockets were launched from Gaza into Tel Aviv.** Thankfully, no one was hurt. Hamas, the ruling regime in Gaza, claimed it was a "mistake." Israel has a policy of retaliation striking key strategic military sites of Hamas in Gaza. Last week, another claimed "mistake" was launched from Gaza. **The rocket directly hit a home very close to Kfar Saba injuring seven people including 2 children.** It was truly a miracle in both instances that no one was killed. These 2 events have triggered a potential war between Israel and Gaza.

Could these events be masking something far more important if Hamas trying to divert attention away from the recent United States acknowledging Israel's sovereignty of the Golan Heights ? Attention in the news is now on the potential of war. However, we know what has been clearly established by God in the Bible thousands of years ago... that the boundaries of Israel include The Golan Heights (**Joshua 17**).

While God is now maintaining peace in our land, there is always a hint of war in our midst. Apartments new and old need to have bomb shelters added on to their living spaces. In the south, near Gaza residents hardly go a night without a threat of a red alert.

We at Hamaayan have the same concern. From the north in Lebanon and Syria and the south in Gaza, we know the threat of war. The rocket that landed 5 miles from Kfar Saba went straight over our city. The Bible says war is imminent, and because of our location, we are in the middle of the target zone from these three threats. We are still in process of raising support and purchasing the basement as well as building it into a bomb shelter. What is now a threat can become a reality at any time. **Join with us in prayer for God's protection and provision.**



Reclaiming Purim as a Biblical Feast

The Book of Esther is the story of Purim. It reminds us of God's protection of His people. Some 2500 years ago, a threat of complete genocide was averted through the prayer and fasting of a Jewish queen and her family. We are commanded to celebrate with great joy God's salvation.



"What are Messianic Jews anyway?"

Just before the Feast of Purim, **we invited some Holocaust survivors from our city, for lunch and a concert at our congregation.** This was not the first time we had a celebration with these dear people, but it was the first time that one of them, right after the concert stood up and asked, *"How is it that all these evangelical missionaries believe in our God? The Jews await the Messiah, and the Gentiles believe he came and will come back again, so is there a difference? And what are Messianic Jews anyway?"* What came next was a clear and wonderful explanation of the Gospel. **Please pray for these special people to receive God's gift.**



New Soldiers

We are so happy to bless our new soldiers. Together as a family, we ask God to protect them and let them be a light to the rest of their troop. **Please keep them in your prayers as they defend our nation.**



Couple's Evening

A special time of teaching, romance, games and joy for 30 of our couples who were treated to a wonderful dinner and fellowship by one of our Partner Congregations. It was truly a blessing.



Hamaayan's Newest Taglit Graduates

Eighteen people from Northwoods Community in Peoria, were trained and commissioned to be ambassadors for Israel. With 5 days of training about the Covenants of God as well as 4 days of ministry work at Hamaayan, we were greatly blessed to have them.



Volunteer or Intern Opportunities

We are currently **taking applications for interns or volunteers for short term** stays while serving here at Hamaayan. Have you ever thought of more than just a tour or a visit to Israel, but didn't know how you can serve our congregation? If you have anywhere from 2 weeks to 3 months and are willing to "roll up your sleeves", we would like to invite you to consider applying to participate in our program.

For further information, or if you're interested in being trained and equipped by our Taglit Hamaayan team, contact sallyhamaayan@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

- **Our Elections April 9th.** That God will help us elect people of integrity for our nation. People who will make wise decisions and return our nation back to the true God, our Father, the God of Israel.
- **Our current situation in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria.** That God would protect our soldiers and civilians. God would give wisdom to our government. They would rely on God rather than man or their "*charriots*" (**Psalm 20**).
- **Safety** for our nation and city from rockets launches.
- **Provision** of the funds for our bomb shelter and the purchase of the rest of our building.
- **Wisdom and guidance for our leadership** as God gives us direction for 2019 and beyond.
- **More workers** for the harvest.
- **The new members** in our congregation. For Y. to stand strong when persecuted by family.
- **Salvation** for the visitors & seekers. For D. a Holocaust survivor attending our services & the others who heard the gospel last month.
- **More financial partners** for our growing ministries.
- For **uncompromizing witness** as we celebrate our Passover lamb, Yeshua, given to save us from death and destruction (**1 Corinthians 5.7-8**).

We are grateful for your prayers and partnership.

Hamaayan Team

Dear Friends and Partners,

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal
but mighty in God to destroy strongholds."*

2 Corinthians 10.4

*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood
but against powers and principalities,
against rulers of the darkness of this age,
against spiritual forces of wickedness
in Heavenly places."*

Ephesians 6.12

War from Gaza

Starting at 10:00 am last Shabbat, Hamas terrorists from Gaza have launched over 650 rockets into Israel in 2 days. As we write now, 150 Israelis are injured, some of them in critical condition, with 4 killed. Numerous buildings damaged include a kindergarden and schools. Countless people are traumatized among the southern population in Israel, including the cities of Sderot, Beer Sheva, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Rehovot etc.

At the same time 10:00 am on Saturday, when the Hamas launched their fire, our intercessor team in Kfar-Saba was praying for our upcoming congregation shabbat meeting. How awesome that we were able to pray through during the rockets for protection for the people down south. The Lord comforted us with the reminder that « *The Lord of Israel neither slumber nor sleep, the keeper of Israel* » **Psalm 121.4.**

What is Next?

Last night, our air force retaliated by bombing more than 300 tactical Hamas sites including rocket launching sites, terror tunnels and terror offices headquarters. As Hamas has proclaimed earlier: *Terror targets Israel, and now the IDF targets terror back.*

When Will It End?

As we know, there can be no true peace in Israel (or anywhere in the world) without the coming of the Prince of Peace. Peace is not the absence of war, but it is the presence of God. It is *a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5.22)* growing from the tree of righteousness.

Our Lord is Himself our Peace and our Righteousness. In Israel we all need to return to the Lord with all our hearts. We invite you to pray with us Solomon's prayer from **2 Chronicles 6.**

Last week we remembered the 6 million Jews murdered during WW2, and this week again we are also remembering the cost of thousands of lives, killed for the independence of modern Israel. Amidst the sirens of remembrance of the past, we are now responding to the sirens of today calling us to find shelter in our bomb shelters under the Wings and Shadow of the Almighty. « *Lord, in judgement, remember Mercy* ».

Join Us in Prayer :

- For our nation to be safe as we gather for national Memorial Day and Independence Day this week.
- For safety for all the cities of the south including Sderot, Ashdod, Ashkelon and Beer Sheva. - For healing of shock and trauma, especially for the young children.
- For violence (biblical word: Hamas) to be stopped.
- For our young congregation in Beer Sheva as they minister the message of salvation and hope. They spent all night in bomb shelters. Pray for boldness and fruits during this trying period.
- For our young soldiers to be safe and wise. We have a few members of our congregation serving near Gaza.
- For our government to make wise and courageous decisions.
- For the Body of Messiah to be a light to the whole nation. It is so encouraging to see that northern congregations in Galilee are offering hospitality to brothers & sisters of the Negev (south). What an example of care and love.
- For God to intervene & for the Gospel to be proclaimed in the Gaza strip. Pray for courageous Arab speaking servants of God who are ministering to a lost & hopeless people. Let's all pray for a harvest of souls and that Gaza will come to salvation.

Three More Prayer Items for the Month

- Pray for our upcoming conference « Kingdom First ». We will gather, Arab & Jewish believers for 48 hours of prayer, worship, fellowship & studying God's Word, demonstrating the reality of the « *one new man* » the root revelation of the Mystery of Messiah (**Ephesians 1 & 2**). There is not a better time than now to unite as one body seeking His Kingdom First.
- For our next outreach in Tel Aviv next Saturday, as we feed the poor & the needy, ministering to the needs of the body & the soul. Reaching out to both Jewish and Arab population as well as foreign refugees.
- We also remember the terror tragedy and martyrdom in Sri Lanka that happened on Easter Sunday. We were able to minister & encourage some of the Sri Lankan community in Tel Aviv. As we pray for this wounded & traumatized nation, we have been able to identify in some of their suffering, due to our common experiences with terror here in Israel.

If you so desire, you can help us minister to their material needs as we provide humanitarian help to reach the poorest & most destitute inside Sri Lanka. You can contact us for more information.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Hamaayan Team



Dear Friends and Partners,

Hamaayan's 30th Anniversary

It is difficult to believe that thirty years ago, **Hamaayan congregation began in our living room in Kfar Saba as six families with small children gathered together.** We were sent with the blessing of our congregation in Tel Aviv, **to plant a new congregation** in a city where there were none.

Throughout the years, we have watched innumerable lives being impacted by the Gospel and changed radically. We have seen children grow up to become true disciples, positively impacting our nation with the Gospel. We were able to send out some of our members to plant new congregations in different cities in Israel. We have watched tragedies of wars and intifadas that have impacted our congregation in a personal way.

Through these challenges, **God has used us to bring healing and reconciliation** in ways we could have never imagined. We have seen Him use us throughout the world to teach about the Mystery of Israel and how it relates to the nations of the world.

We can only imagine what God has in store for us individually and as a congregation. We do know that it is beyond our dreams.

The Feast of Shavuot

Our 30th anniversary was celebrated during the Feast of Shavuot on the rooftop of our building. **This is an appointed Feast of the Lord, when the people of Israel were to give their first fruits to God in thanksgiving for what He has done. (Leviticus 23:16-21.)**

We enjoyed listening to the testimonies of different members who shared how God has touched their lives through the congregation when they joined it, each one in a different time.

We turned the meeting room into «**Hamaayan Museum**» displaying the historical timeline of our congregation through pictures, videos & many memories.





Kingdom First!

While the world wants to “fix” the Middle East through political means, we know **the only way is through the Kingdom of God first**. Four years ago, we started **to deepen our relationships with our Arab brothers and sisters living under the Palestinian authorities**. Last month **80 of us Jews and Arabs met for three days** with the goal of gathering to deepen our level of unity, understanding and cooperation. We hope to work together as one team, crossing political borders, in order to become one voice that will bring Glory to God by declaring a clear message of Salvation and Hope to both of our communities.

We want to see Yeshua’s Kingdom come and bring forth a great harvest in Israel. **We recognize that we need each other and cannot do it on our own.**



The March of Life in Israel

The March of Life movement started in Germany in 2007, when **descendants of Nazi perpetrators broke the silence about their terrible family history** and met with Holocaust survivors and their descendants. **The result was healing, friendship and new life**. But it did not just stay in Germany, **about 40,000 people have taken to the streets in 18 nations and 350 cities** with a joint voice for remembrance and reconciliation – against anti-Semitism and for Israel.

This year, one of the cities chosen to host the march was our city Kfar Saba. It was a humbling experience to participate in the March as Jews and Christians walking hand in hand proclaiming: **“Israel, you are not alone! We stand together with you in friendship!”** Standing on the stage in front of holocaust survivors & the mayor & citizens of Kfar Saba, the young German people asked for forgiveness for the sins that their forefathers committed against the Jewish people. It was a moving moment !

Prayer Requests:

- **The upcoming election**, that God would raise up Godly leaders who will seek God first and His ways instead of personal gain or agenda.
- God would **forgive** our sins of allowing abortion and “alternative lifestyles” into this land and **heal** our hearts to **return back to Him**.
- **For the government and military** to make wise decisions in response to the instability of Gaza and Syria/Lebanon. For God to protect the innocent citizens of both the south of Israel and Gaza that are caught in the middle of this conflict.
- **Protection of our soldiers**. Special grace and strength for those who are believers, that they may be a light to those around them.
- **The children’s summer camps**. That our children would receive deeper revelation of God’s love and will all be saved.
- God would **provide our final funds** to purchase the basement/bomb shelter, and the final papers needed.
- **Wisdom for our leadership team** to carry out God’s call on our ministry.
- **The Harvest** in Kfar Saba and surrounding communities, and workers for the harvest.



As we reflect on the past, present and future, we cannot thank God enough for you, our partners who have stood with us all these years. Through your prayers and financial giving, God has allowed us to accomplish what were once dreams and now reality.

Here’s to another 30 years! (and beyond)

Tony & Orna Sperandeo

Dear Friends and Partners,

For the first time in the modern history of Israel, we are about to have an unprecedented second general election in the same year. On **September 17**, our nation will, once again, try to choose a coalition (majority) to run our government in the Knesset. As of this writing, it is still not clear who will win, but what is clear is that God is in charge :

«And He changes the times and the seasons, He removes kings and sets up kings: He gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.» (Daniel 2:21). This promise gives believers great hope and motivation to pray for God to establish a righteous government that will bring Him glory.

While the south and north have been relatively quiet this summer, we saw rockets launched from Gaza, Molotov cocktails used via balloons to destroy our fields in the south and attempts to kidnap our soldiers. In the North, the Iranian backed regime, Hezbollah, is trying to start a war in Israel. **Please pray for our troops and citizens, for safety and protection from the rockets.**



Distribution of food & literature during outreach in Tel-Aviv



Praying for a drug addict during outreach



Workshop on how to share the Good News of Yeshua

Increase in our Congregation

Despite the unrest that is happening around us, **God is revealing His "hidden face" to our nation; we see a new openness to the Gospel of Yeshua.** Daily, we hear testimonies of members of our congregation sharing the Gospel message with people on the street or in stores. During this summer, we have gone to the park close to our congregation to pray and talk with the people passing by. Walking in twos, we enjoy using multiples languages, praying for God's divine revelation for them.

One of our home groups is experiencing a "harvest" of its own. While worshipping, there was a knock on the door. It was a neighbor from the building who wanted to join. **Hearing the music, he was drawn to the apartment and decided to stay for the entire meeting.** The message that night was on Eternal Life. He, along with a new family of non-believers who emigrated from South Africa, now attend our home groups meetings on a regular basis.

We are also encouraged to see new faces show up at our weekly meetings. **Prayers of increase are being answered with new families joining, bringing their families and the younger generation coming to faith.** Yes, the harvest has begun. Join us in prayer for eyes and hearts to open, for God's revelation in each one of these dear people.



Special summer activities for our children, on the rooftop of our building.



Tony teaching at "Matsliach" program, preparing young students for the spiritual challenges in the universities.

From Summer into Fall

The children had just returned back to school and our **fall holidays** will be upon us soon. The pomegranates are close to harvest, symbolizing the hope of a fruitful new year. We are looking forward to **a time of communal time of prayer and fasting during the 10 days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur (September 29 - October 9)**. Every year, we devote those days to pray for our nation, city, family and congregation. **We would love to have you join us during this time.**

Join us in prayer for :

- **National elections, Sept 17.** That God would bring forth a righteous government that would glorify Him.
- **Wisdom and guidance for our government and military** as they navigate through the threats of terror.
- **Protection for our soldiers**, especially those who are believers. That they would be a light to the rest of their platoon and stay strong the faith.
- **Our children** who are returning to school. To be protected from anti-God teachings, and to be a light to those around them. Many of them are the only believers in their school.
- **Gospel revelation** to the seekers and **discipleship** for the new believers.
- **Wisdom, unity and protection for the leadership team here at Hamaayan** to guide our congregation to fulfill the Call of God. *«Then he said to his disciples : The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.»*
(Matthew 9:37-38)
- The completion of **the provision for our bomb shelter** (the purchase of the basement in our building).

Did you know that we have a guest house for our interns, volunteers and travelers visiting Israel ? Interested in knowing more about our internship program / guest house, please contact Sally, at: sallyhamaayan@gmail.com.

We are blessed by you, your prayers and your financial giving on our behalf. God uses you to join us in fulfilling the calling of our congregation in this Land. May God bless you abundantly.

Hamaayan Team

Dear Friends and Partners,

As we write you this letter, the whole south of Israel and the center of the country including the larger Tel Aviv «Gush Dan» most populated area, are under **missile's attacks, up to 80 kilometers radius**. These events came as retaliation to Israel **eliminating a top senior Palesinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza**. He was the main instigator of terrorism from the Gaza Strip and was in the midst of planning additional attacks in the near future. Schools are closed in many parts of the country & public transport is limited.

Please join us in prayer as we foresee a dangerous escalation of violence in our country. There are also very serious threats coming from Syria and Lebanon. Ultimately, these regimes are all supported by Iran. Let us join in prayer for the Prince of Peace to bring Peace to our nation and its people.

The new government is not formed yet, but we know already who is our King of Israel. Let us pray that people will turn to the only true source of Peace and Salvation.

We would like to share with you in pictures, some of our past month's activities in the congregation.



Rejoicing as God commanded us during the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles)
"You shall observe the feast of Tabernacles seven days... You shall rejoice in your feast... You shall surely rejoice." (Deut. 16:13-15)



Friends from New Caledonia (Pacific Islands) who came from the utmost part of the earth, joining us in worship during the Feast of Tabernacles.



Rolling the Torah Scroll back to its beginning, after reading the last portion of the Torah (the 5 books of Moses) on Simchat Torah - the 8th day of Sukkot.



Our building entrance prepared for our Feast of Sukkot celebration.



Yom Kippur (The day of Atonement) : 24 hours of praying & fasting together, for our nation and the salvation of the lost sheep of Israel and its neighbors.



Some of our prayer partners joining us on the rooftop of our building. David, one of our elders, sharing about the Jewish roots of our Faith & the prayer needs for Israel.



Introducing 2 of our young members, soldiers in the IDF. Please join us in asking God to watch over them and their peers. We ask God to strengthen their faith and help them be a testimony in a somewhat hostile environment.

Update on the purchase of the Bomb Shelter

We are waiting for the final papers to be approved by the municipality of Kfar Saba.

After these papers are signed by the authorities, we will be technically able to sign the contract with the basement's owner. We are praying for the approval of these documents and that all the money still needed (\$30,000), will be provided by then.

For those who joined recently, we are talking about the basement of our congregation's building, that we plan to renovate into a bomb shelter, as well as other congregation uses.