

MaozNews No. 114
Published every 4 weeks or so
August 2017

© Baruch Maoz

In This Issue:

The Church or Organizations? (continued), pg. 1

Israel: The Prime Minister; Security, Society, pg. 2

Ministry and Family News, pg. 3

The Church or Organizations?

As regular readers of MaozNews will know, issue 113 carried indication of my concern over the way many organizations replace the church in various spheres. A summary of my argument follows, with responses from well-respected brethren.

According to scripture, our Lord established the church, not organizations. The church is to be a central factor in all shared Christian activity. Organizations often usurp the role of churches as well as the role of the church in individual lives. Lip service I paid to the authority of the church, but often in such a way as to secure the interests of organizations at the expense of the church, sapping her energies and resources.

Churches are best equipped to nurture Christians and to guide them in their endeavors. It is true: in many cases, organizations came into being because the church was not fulfilling its' duty. But the biblical solution is not to supplant the church, but to reform it.

There are many activities to which the church is called and for which no single church is able to shoulder on its' own. That is when inter-church cooperation is called for.

Responses received:

Dear Baruch,

I do assent to all that you have said. You described the 'ideal' church in this fallen world. But as I move amongst different kinds of evangelical churches, I am sadly seeing more and more, that the Bride of Christ is like 'Cinderella with Amnesia' - to quote a book title.

How you describe things IS how it SHOULD be. But I am finding that fine young people are not being challenged by their churches to 'look unto the fields'. When they are challenged by others to look (perhaps through their University CU's or by

reading good books) and then go back to their churches, they find little enthusiasm there, and sometimes get the "sit down young man" treatment which Carey allegedly received. The churches themselves are failing.

I know our great need is to pray for revival, but the Great Commission is too great to wait for that. I know what you might say - 'let those young people go and find solid outward-looking Reformed churches'. But such churches are few and far between.

Warmly in the Lord,

XXXX

Dear XXXX

I think the problem is that, instead of reforming the church and getting her to do what she should be doing, we set up organizations that, as a result, further weaken her. I'm not calling for an immediate dismantling of all non-church organizations, but I do believe that such bodies should work for their own demise by seeking to challenge, equip and motivate the church.

In Christ by grace,

Baruch

Another brother insisted that Paul's activity was, in essence, identical to that of a modern Mission organization, with various of his helpers being funded by various churches.

I question that on a number of grounds. First, Paul was sent out by a church, to which he repeatedly returned to report. Second, there is no biblical evidence to the claim that his various helpers were supported by various churches. Third, there is no evidence of an individual church supporting individuals that were not sent out from that church. An important exception is, of course, the church in Philippi, to which Paul was careful to send formal confirmation of receipt. There was nothing of the "golden handshake" with bills being discretely passed from donor to recipient.

The same brother rightly insists on sending churches playing a large role in the oversight of those sent out by them. However, when the interest or considerations of the local church run contrary to those of the organization, it has almost always been the case that the concerns of the sending church were over-ridden by the organization.

This is not to say that I believe missionary organizations should be dismantled at once. Many such organizations are doing a valuable work! But I do believe they should be working toward their own dismantlement by gradually reverting to biblical principles, handing over more and more of their endeavors to churches and subjecting themselves in increasingly meaningful ways to the oversight of churches.

Further reflection from friends, foes and readers is welcome.

Israel

The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, his wife and a growing number of the PM's close associates are under investigation for bribery, misuse of public funds, embezzlement, abuse of power and other such embarrassing charges. In some cases, Israel's security is said to have hung in the balance, and the decisions made did not always best serve that worthy goal. Time will tell if the police recommend an indictment, and whether the Attorney general will, in fact, serve such. If indicted, the law does not require the Prime Minister's resignation, but the public outcry may well render his continuance politically inexpedient, in which case many of his present supporters are likely to turn away from him. It is to be regretted that ethical considerations are not taken into account.

Security

Israel has emerged weaker from recent developments related to the Temple Mound. Having first placed electromagnetic gates, and then removed them due to public Palestinian pressure, Israel installed smart surveillance cameras which were, in turn, removed due to similar protests. No effort had been made to coordinate security measure on the Mound with the Muslim Authorities or with Jordan, both of which share responsibility for the area. Israel is seen to have folded under pressure, resulting in further emboldening the radicals among the Palestinians.

In Syria, Hezbollah has been to a measure relieved of its military burden there, with important gains in terms of battle experience and better territorial positioning. Israel is fortifying the northern border in expectation of Hezbollah initiatives, which it hopes to make less likely by the fortifications created.

Tensions between the Israeli Arab and Jewish population have risen. Residents of the Israeli Arab city of Um El Facham celebrated the funerals the three terrorists who shot Israeli border police in the back and who were themselves killed by other border policemen on duty. Jaffa, the southern part of Tel Aviv, in which many Arabs live, has seen riots following the killing of an Arab fugitive.

Society

Mr. Netanyahu is eroding civil liberties, particularly the freedom of the press, while the Minister of Education is promoting a nationalist agenda in the school programs and in the free hand he encourages schools to accord Jewish religious organizations in schools. A growing number of parents and teachers are beginning to complain. The press has lost some of its' freedoms by having one of the more critical national broadcasting companies dismantled by the Government and Israel's largest daily encouraged to run articles more favorable to the Prime Minister, his wife and his Government. The Ministry of Culture has ominously withdrawn subsidies from "unpatriotic" bodies while increasing subsidies to those deemed to be patriotic.

Ministry and Family News

I've received and completed reviewing editorial comments on the NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION of the Gospels, Acts and Ephesians. These now await final form following my return to Israel and discussion with my linguistic editor. The next draft will then be formulated and sent to the various control groups while I proceed translating the book of Revelation and receive editorial comments on the remaining letters.

I've also completed reviewing editorial comments on MY COMMENTARY ON THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS. These were fewer than expected. Again, the final draft will be formulated after meeting with my editor. The publication of my LIFE AND LETTERS OF PAUL has been delayed for some reason, much to my frustration and disappointment. I hope to see this work in print soon. My DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS (I and II Timothy, Titus, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude) is now being edited, while I continue writing a news series on the Pentateuch.

Bracha was forced to cut her TIME IN THE US short due to her mother's sudden deterioration in health. She passed away a few days later and the funeral was held the very next day, obviating the possibility that our daughters or I could attend. We expect to be together for the memorial service, traditionally held a month later. So far as we know, Tsipora died without faith in Christ. Bracha, as ever, has coped well with adversity. Her faith in God supports her, but we all sense her loss.

Last month I was privileged to baptize my 9-year old grandson, Yotam. Here is his testimony, verbatim.

When I was 4 I had a nightmare, so I prayed and God comforted me. That is when I learned that He is my source of power. Reading what the bible says about sinners, I saw that I was a sinner too.

When I was 5, I saw pictures of Jesus's cross in the bible, and that helped me because it reminded me that Jesus died for my sins.

As I got older, I learned more about God and work, so I wanted to be baptized.

Because I wanted to be Jesus's disciple and they all got baptized as a symbol of the work of God in their lives and their new life in Christ.

It was a sweet and a privileged joy to baptize him. I am grateful to his Pastor, Daniel Corey, for making this possible. Bracha and I long for all our family to know and love the Lord.

In the course of the **US Tour** have driven so far just over 19,000 miles and can now see the tail end of my present trip. Our car has put on so much mileage that I chose to replace it.

In the course of our visit we spent a short while with dear friends in Florida, Beth and Matt Folkert. We were shocked a few days later to be informed she was diagnosed with a virulent form of cancer, resulting in her sudden death after a few weeks of earnest efforts to treat her. Beth Folkert was a godly woman. Matt, her husband, and her children are coping, but both deserve and need prayerful support.

On my way home, I was scheduled to stop over in England to visit our beloved friend and father in the Faith, ERROLL HULSE. We had the pleasure of visiting him last year and planned to do so again. But he recently departed this world for the presence of the Lord. The church militant has lost a faithful, loving member, while the church victorious has welcomed a faithful warrior who knew well what it is to trust in the grace of God and to find joy, comfort, strength and confident hope in him. Erroll served God's people well. With many others, I will miss him greatly.

Others of our friends, at our age or younger, are challenged with various bodily ailments. We are grateful to be as healthy as we seem to be at this advanced age (Bracha is 69 and I am 73). Your prayers undoubtedly continue to that end. Thank you!

In Christ by grace,

Baruch and Bracha Maoz

You can help us by purchasing copies of Baruch's books from Barnes & Noble or from Amazon by asking for them at your local bookstore and **by posting reviews of these books** on Barnes & Noble or Amazon websites. Positive reviews help sell the books.

COME LET US REASON TOGETHER (On the Unity of Jews and Gentiles in the church), P&R. This book presents Christ as the fullness of divine revelation and his work as sufficient for our whole salvation.

JONAH: A PROPHET ON THE RUN, Shepherd Press, a devotional commentary on the book of Jonah.

MALACHI: A PROPHET IN TIMES OF DISTRESS, a devotional commentary on the book of Malachi. Founders Press.

COLOSSIANS: The All-Sufficient Savior, a devotional commentary on the book of Colossians. Founders Press. Due approximately September 2017

The devotional commentaries are well suited for personal devotions and group studies

Baruch's sermons may be heard on [Sermon Audio](#)

To remain abreast of developing circumstances in Israel, visit the [MaozWeb](#) or "follow" Baruch on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and on [Twitter](#) (@BaruchMaoz).

Intermittent bulletins are produced as necessary



LinkedIn



Tax deductible **support for our ministry** should be written to the order of **Berean Baptist Church special missions account, 6705 Rustic Ridge Trail, Grand Blanc, MI 48439, Chemical Bank, 333 E. Main Street, Midland, MI 48640, Account 1148701325 Routing Number (ABA#): 072410013 SWIFT Code: CHEMUS33.**

Please designate: For Maoz Ministry.

All contributions are tax deductible. Receipts are sent at the end of each calendar year or at donor's request.

Please do not send contributions directly to us; we value accountability.

Funds sent for the ministry will be used exclusively for that purpose.

We reserve the right to use personal funds for the purposes of the ministry.