

MaozNews No. 116
Published every 4 weeks or so
October 2017
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Ministry and Family News

Having gone through more than two very turbulent years, it is a relief to report that there is not much to report. I have completed translating for David the book on the role of women in society and in the church, have written 252 DAILY DEVOTIONS FORM THE PENTATEUCH and am presently working on devotions based on Chapter 32 of Deuteronomy, reading up preparatory to translating the last of the New Testament books (Revelation) and awaiting editorial comment on other portions of my translations.

Nearing the end of Deuteronomy, with some 110 more devotionals to go, I shall have to deal next with Joshua in the daily devotional series. I hope not to need to include Judges. Upon completing the translation of the book of Revelation, I will have completed TRANSLATING THE NEW TESTAMENT as a whole.

I'm also going over the chapters I've already have written on CHURCH LIFE, fine-tuning them, getting up to par and working to bring this project to completion toward the end of the first quarter of 2018, unless something unexpected intervenes. I've written a short, five-part ESTIMATE OF CHURCH LIFE IN ISRAEL TODAY (Hebrew), that is now being distributed by various means in the country. So far responses have been positive. The real response for which I long and pray is not affirmation and agreement but a revolutionary change.

Our Pastor was way away for a month, caring for his ailing mother, while I filled the pulpit for him. His having returned, I revert to the schedule of PREACHING approximately once a month and filling in for those scheduled to preach and cannot do so for various reasons.

I CONTINUE TO PREACH every so often for a church in Jerusalem, with very kind acceptance. Having preaching from Galatians 3 1-14, the Pastor of the church responded by telling me that prominent members of his church have been troubled by his emphasis on the same topic (grace versus human spiritual prowess) for fear that all impetus toward sacrifice, self-discipline and holiness would be lost. Of course, it is precisely grace that provides that impetus as well as the grounds for truly spiritual striving. Anything else is but another version of the very error Paul

opposes in his letter to the Galatians. I hope to be of some help and encouragement to this dear brother. Your prayers for him, the church and its officers would be much appreciated.

The Pastor's disclosure came as no surprise because, immediately after the service and before my conversation with him I was kindly accosted by a delightful brother who labors among the youth of the church and who expressed the same concerns that troubled others among the leadership of the church. We had a good chat and I am praying for further opportunity to explore the wonders and powers of grace with him.

I continue to mentor Har'el, who seems to be progressing well in the Lord. He has amassed a surprising amount of knowledge in a short time and seems to have a biblical sense of priorities. Since he has proven himself a competent businessman, I am working with him in conjunction with Christian businessmen and friends in Birmingham AL with a view to establishing a franchise in Israel that will provide local believers with gainful employment, enable them to establish themselves economically and project Christian principles into society by conducting themselves with transparent honesty, providing customers with excellent service at a reasonable price and relating to employees and suppliers with generous fairness and strict ethical procedures. These are all, surely, nothing less than the product of the kind of fear of and love for God that should guide all and any activities undertaken by Christians. Other such projects are under consideration.

Every two weeks or so we have the pleasure of seeing our eldest granddaughter, Noam, who is volunteering in the country for 10 months with one of the Jewish youth movements active in North America. This is a special delight because, on weekends and holidays –family oriented events in Jewish culture – Bracha and I are often alone since our three daughters and their families are in the US and Bracha is finding it increasingly difficult to host (she's nearing the grand age of 70...).

September and October have been chock-a-block full of weekends and holidays, with the Jewish New Year, the Day of Atonement, the first and last days of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth day of Holy Convocation, devoted in Jewish tradition to a renewal of the annual cycle of readings from the scriptures. In the past, we would construct a booth and, on the eve of the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, host a group for Bible study, food and fellowship, as was our wont every 6 weeks or so throughout the year. We've not been able to do that. I hope in the Lord that things will be different next year.

We have begun planning the 2018 visit to the US. This time we do not expect to drive further west than Texas or further north than Kansas and Illinois, commencing the trip in Pennsylvania, flying over to Seattle Washington to visit the two girls and their families there, and conducting a short excursion to Montreal Canada to visit Katya and her family. Southwards, we expect to visit southern Florida. Churches in the areas just designated interested in our visiting them are encouraged to write to us as

soon as possible. A large chunk of our time is expected to be spent on the east Coast, particularly with Shlomit and her family.

In Christ by grace,

Baruch and Bracha Maoz

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

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

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