

**MaozNews No. 127**  
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### **Ministry and Family News**

Bracha has been in the States since March 23<sup>rd</sup> and I since April 13<sup>th</sup>. In the course of that time we've been to Seattle twice, circumnavigated the continental USA, zigzagging on the way, flown to Montreal and back, drove south to the south-western coast of Florida, north to Bremen Indiana, west to Kansas City, and are now on our way south to Biloxi (via Laurel) Mississippi, then are to drive north east (via Macon Georgia) to Burlington North Carolina and south west to Chattanooga Tennessee, whence we hope to fly to Los Angeles, attend a conference and fly back home via London. Our faithful Equinox has served us well. So far we've driven some 18,000 miles (I'm inclined to give our address as Equinox, Chevrolet JYB5973 ... ). It has been an arduous trip, but with many blessings. Our tires wore out and needed to be replaced, and we're tired, but we're ready to go as soon as we arrive home.

It has been a particular pleasure to minister in small, out-of-the-way churches, at times to which few have come over the years. We were privileged to meet faithful brethren who have risen to the challenge of serving in churches that are never likely to be anything but small, and who do so with devotion, sacrifice and exemplary affection for the Lord and for his people. Bracha and I have been both challenged and ministered to by these brethren.

We've also had the privilege of visiting former congregants, witnessing their ongoing love of God and his word as well as some of their struggles. The husband (and father) in one family has just been deployed for 9 months to Kuwait. Another has been unemployed for so long that he has reached an age at which he fears that he might be unemployable. A third lost her husband to cancer after a mere three years of a blessedly happy marriage. It is a high privilege to share in the prayers and aspirations of these dear saints of God and to share their prayers and aspirations in Christ.

I've largely preached from Romans, Colossians and Galatians, with a number of topical sermons and lectures interspersed. Meanwhile, I've completed the translation of a doctoral theses written by an Israeli Arab Christian on **Jesus in Early Islamic literature**, and am now slaving through his 1,400 or so footnotes while editing and re-editing my **translation of the New Testament**, writing and distributing a **daily expository devotion**, working on **the book on church life** and **translating the book of Revelation** – the remaining book I have yet to complete for the New

Testament project. It has been difficult to juggle all these in the course of our present travels and I have not made as much progress as I had hoped (to be frank, that is nothing new. I'm always setting myself goals I seldom manage to reach, but doing so stretches me, and that is a good thing. God forbid that I be satisfied with whatever I've been allowed to accomplish!).

Happily, I will no longer engage in these extensive tours. That will free me to be more productive in writing, which is my main duty and concern. I long to be able to devote more of my working time to study preparatory to writing and then to writing, so as to leave behind me as extensive a theological and expository body of literature in Hebrew as possible. There is still a long way to go.

As we near the end of the tour, we're tired but not exhausted. For a couple going on to 70 and 75 years of age respectively, we're surprisingly still able to undertake such a trip. God has granted us good health and sufficient energy. We give him thanks.

I am contemplating the possibility of renewing efforts to establish a fellowship of **Jewish Christians** who are, as they should be, members of evangelical churches, so as to provide them with a voice to our people and posit a more biblical option than that represented by the Messianic Movement. My desire would be to **encourage Jewish Christians to remain in their churches, but to raise a united voice for Christ among our people** and to share insights and endeavors on behalf of our people with the churches to which we belong. To that end **I seek your help**: please provide me with the names and e-mail addresses of any Jewish Christians you may know. This would enable me to build a database and to begin informing these brethren of our renewed efforts. If you are aware of Jewish Christians of any prominence or with significant connections, please make special note of these as you write, I thank you in advance.

**Bracha's medical examination** resulted in another "all clear". Two more examinations are to be undertaken in the course of the next two years. **Avital** has been asked to head an educational program in the Jewish Cultural Centre in Seattle, and now finds herself fully engrossed. **Noam**, Avital's oldest daughter and our oldest granddaughter, completed the 9 months volunteer undertaking in Israel (during which we were delighted to see quite a bit of her) and has now taken up her studies in Gonzaga, Tacoma. **Maya**, Avital's and our second oldest, will be completing her high school in the context of a college program.

**Keith and Shlomit** have moved to Chattanooga, TN, where the children now attend the same Christian school which has employed **Shlomit**. **Keith** is still seeking employment. His health is poor due to a recurrence of the SIBO, from which he suffers. Because he and the family are on Medicaid, he has to wait for weeks to see a doctor, and therefore has not yet had the necessary medication prescribed. He is coping as best he can with food supplements, but medication is what is needed at this time. More than that, he desperately needs to find gainful employment. Your prayers would be much appreciated

**Marcus, Tamar and the children** spent some weeks in Spain, where Marcus was sent for a number of weeks by his employer (Boeing). During that time they were able to visit Marcus' grandmother, who resides in Germany. They are now back in Seattle again, busy with life and with the new school year.

**Katya and Felix** devoted 10 days of their vacation to help running a children's summer camp from which they returned tired but thrilled to serve. **Felix** serves as a Deacon on their church, and preaches from time to time.

**Rose** continues to pursue her studies. For lack of resources, she has moved in to live with her mother. This is far from ideal under the circumstances, but it is her only reasonable option. Her mother has begun attending church. She is, however, still far from willingly and knowing living on Christ.

In Christ by grace,

Baruch and Bracha Maoz

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