

# MaozNews 9

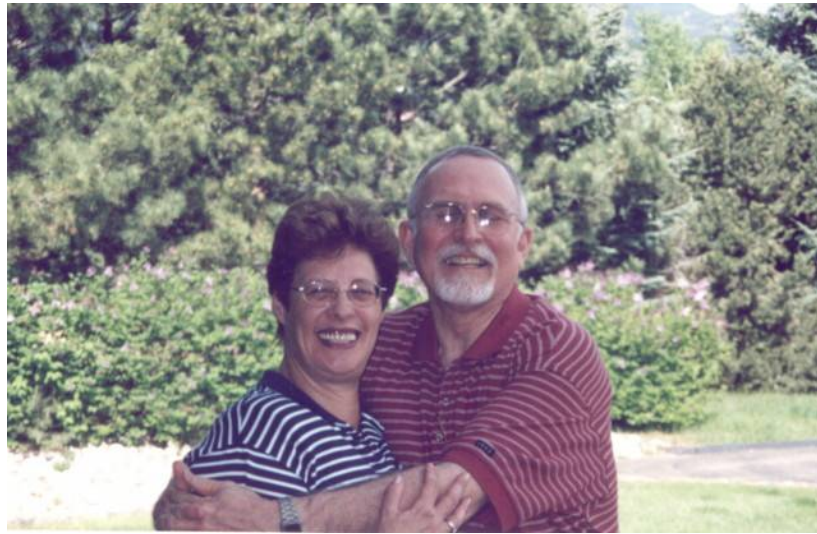
The Baruch and Bracha Maoz Newsletter

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## **Baruch's Biography** (continued)

**Born** December 31<sup>st</sup> 1943, **Immigrated** to Israel April 1953, **Enlisted** to the Israeli army November 196, **Converted** to Christ November 11 1963, **Baptized** December 1963, **Engaged** to Bracha September 1965, **Commenced studies** in Bible College of Wales November 1965, **Completed studies** at WEC College in Glasgow, Scotland December 1967, **Married** to Bracha January 18 1968, **Commenced work** with Victor at what became Yanets Press February 1968, **Ended work** with Yanets summer 1970, **Joined CWI** March 1974, **First steps** toward founding of Grace and Truth Christian Congregation 1974, **Church founded** May 1976, **Work with CWI terminated** December 2006, **Pastoral oversight** of Grace and Truth Christian Congregation to **terminate** December 2008.

MaozNews readers will recall that Baruch was at the Bible College of Wales and had been required to accept the particular teaching the College was promoting. He had asked the dean. Dr. Symmonds, to teach him that doctrine from the scriptures but was required instead to accept the truth of the matter on authority of the College. We pick up from there:

### **Comfort in Conflict**

I was anxious for there to be no ill feelings between Dr. Symmonds and myself, and so bought and presented him with a small Christmas gift. He declined to accept it: "After you make your decision, I will know if I am able to accept your gift".

During this time I learnt a hymn that accompanied me for many years afterwards and served both as an encouragement and as a reminder of an important priority:

Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
Our only salvation is there;  
It carries conviction down deep in the heart,  
And shows us ourselves as we are.  
It tells of a Savior, and points to the cross,  
Where pardon we now may secure;  
For we know that when time and the world pass away,  
God's Word shall forever endure.

Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
The hope of our friends in the past;  
Its truth, where so firmly they anchored their trust,  
Through ages eternal shall last.  
Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
Unchanging, abiding and sure;  
For we know that when time and the world pass away,  
God's Word shall forever endure.

Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
True wisdom its pages unfold;  
And though we may read them a thousand times o'er,  
They never, no never, grow old!  
Each line hath a treasure, each promise a pearl,  
That all if they will may secure;  
And we know that when time and the world pass away,  
God's Word shall forever endure.

Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
The lamp that our Father above  
So kindly has lighted to teach us the way  
That leads to the arms of His love!  
Its warnings, its counsels, are faithful and just;  
Its judgments are perfect and pure;  
And we know that when time and the world pass away,  
God's Word shall forever endure.

This hymn became my comfort, my source of strength, my battle cry. For two weeks that passed like two years I travailed and prayed as if my life depended on it, struggled with scripture and sought to reason with myself. The more I struggled, the more convinced I became that the College's teaching had no basis in scripture. I knew, come what may, that I could not bow in matters of conscience. But what will be of me? I had practically no money and knew only one family in London. I had no idea how I would get home. Still, I knew I could not submit to what I had not been convinced from scripture was right.

### **Dismissal**

The two weeks were finally up and I was ushered into Dr. Symmond's room. "Well?!" he demanded. As gently as I could, I responded, "Dr. Symmonds, I will accept all and anything that can be shown me from the word of God. I cannot accept what I do not find there. I am anxious for you to show me what I cannot see myself."

That was it, then. I said it, plain and clear. Dr. Symmonds then informed me that Mr. Howells wished to see me. My heart sank. Like everyone else, I feared Mr. Howells and his reputed powers. But there was no option except to submit to what I could never submit. We made our way to Mr. Howell's residence. Dr. Symmonds uttered not a word. He knocked on the door, and the door opened almost immediately. We were expected.

Dr. Symmonds nodded gravely to the person who opened the door, who looked at me with a mixture of pity and reproof, turned and led us to a double door which, when opened, led us into a large elongated hall. The hall was practically empty, but for a large podium on the far end, on which a chair had been placed. Mr. Samuel Howells himself sat on the chair. He beckoned us to draw near. I approached trembling, with Dr. Symmonds marching at my side with firm determination.

Then a voice was heard from the chair, "So, this is the young man who will not accept what the has Spirit taught!" Dr. Symmonds prodded me with his elbow. I was to reply.

- “No Sir. I will accept anything that is shown me in scripture. I cannot accept anything that I do not see there.”
- “Dr. Symmonds, you were right. Send this boy away. That will be all!”

Dr. Symmonds indicated I was to turn and walk out of the room. He followed. Upon leaving the house, he informed me that I had three days to make my arrangements. Then he walked away.

(to be continued)

### **Soli Deo Gloria**

As of January 2009, our ministry will be called Soli Deo Gloria, expressing our desire to glorify God in all we do. Baruch will be devoting his time primarily to writing original material in Hebrew: commentaries, doctrinal and practical material, with some devotional books. He is the only Christian author writing in Hebrew, and there is a great lack of solid Christian literature in that language. His Joel and Amos are published by HaGefen Publishing. Judges and God and His Word are soon to be published. Baruch is volunteering his time on the Bible translation project and intends to see this important project through to completion.

At this stage we have no idea which others of our present supporters will continue to support us. We implore all who have supported GT to continue and to extend that support. GT is worthy and in need of your assistance. Due to its demographic make-up, it will take 10-15 years for the church to be financially independent.

Those who have supported us personally, we humbly request that you consider continuing doing so, by directing money either to our personal support or to our ministry. Since we need to prepare for the future, if you have been involved in our personal support until now, we would be grateful to know whether, after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, you will continue to share in our labors. Should this be the case, or should changes in the level of your support be expected, it would be helpful if you could inform us by mid November 2008, so that we can plan accordingly. A budget is available to all who request it.

To increase efficiency and utilize Baruch's writing, we hope to hire part time help for research, editing, and office help, releasing Baruch to maximize his time in writing. For this we are still short by some \$38,000 in 2009 and by \$52,000 from 2010 onward, amounting to approximately \$3,200/\$4,300 per month. We would also like to add a small sum to our personal income that would enable us to shore up our small pension fund.

ARBCA's constitution forbids it to service the support of those who are not actively serving in its ranks. Therefore, as of January 1 2009, ARBCA will not longer receive funds for our ministry or our personal support. If you have been supporting us through ARBCA, please note that all such support must be discontinued on December 31 2008.

Bracha and I consider financial accountability important. We have consistently declined to receive monies except by check, written to the order of the church, and requested all who supported us do so through ARBCA. ARBCA has served us well, and we are grateful. To ensure accountability, we have now asked Berean Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan to do so. They have kindly agreed. We thank Pastor Bob Dickie and the church for this important help.

Support should now be written to the order of, and posted to, Berean Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1233, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48480-3233. Contributions are tax-deductable. Please indicate the purpose to which you wish your contributions to be used: "for the Maoz Ministry", "for Maoz Support" or "for the purchase of Maoz Books". Funds sent for the ministry will be used for that purpose. We reserve the right to use personal funds for the ministry.

Contributions may be also sent by bank transfer to Franklin Bank, 24725 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48034 USA, Routing Number 241271957, to Berean Baptist Church Special Missions Account No. 567495976. Please inform Max Sharp at Berean by email at [maxsharp@earthlink.net](mailto:maxsharp@earthlink.net), with details of the transaction: date, sum, designated purpose.

## Family News



second daughter, Shlomit, December 19<sup>th</sup> to Keith. The wedding is scheduled to take place and to be followed by a reception on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Denver. Baruch completed his academic requirements at the Institute of Reformed Theology and is scheduled to Westminster Theological Seminary in Escondido, California. He has been invited to intern for a year with Fred Pugh in Cleveland, Ohio, and will be returned as a student. Baruch is a member of the family in the USA. We are excited to see him. But, to write about the Israeli scene, Baruch must first experience the push and pull of day Israeli life.

He has a driving sense of urgency to serve the local church as best he can, for as long as he can. As he puts it, "The vows of God are upon me. I may not stay to play with shadows or pluck earthly flowers 'til I my work have done and rendered up account".

We will miss our family greatly and will, as the Lord enables and duty permits, visit them. Bracha is likely to spend a great deal more time in the USA with the family than Baruch. To make the most of remaining productive years, Baruch must write as much as possible now, sharing his nation's daily experiences. It is a painful choice but, we believe, the right one. Your prayers will be much appreciated.

Tamar, our youngest daughter, is expecting a child in March.

Some have inquired whether and when we might be able to visit them, report on our work and have Baruch preach. Our extensive annual tours in the USA are not likely to continue and we intend to limit the amount of days Baruch spends overseas in order to ensure an efficient use of his time in writing. But we will be visiting the USA from time to time and Baruch is open to receive invitations. Contrary to past practice, travel expenses and honorariums should be to the order of Berean Baptist Church..

Yours in the Gospel and for Christ,

Baruch and Bracha Maoz

### Important Changes

Baruch is no longer responsible for **GTNews**. **MaozNews** will continue to be written and published, carrying news of the Soli Deo Gloria ministry, of the Christian and secular Israeli scene and articles on relevant themes. Contrary to former notice and in response to general request, veteran recipients of **GTNews** need not subscribe to **MaozNews**. They will continue to receive this publication unless they request to be unsubscribed.

Baruch is in the process of transferring his electronic mail to a new address. In matters regarding the church, please write to [office@GandT.org.il](mailto:office@GandT.org.il). Baruch will continue to receive this mail and deal with it until January 2008. In personal matters relating to Baruch, his family or his ministry, please write to [bmaoz@gmx.com](mailto:bmaoz@gmx.com).

**We recommend that our readers update their contact lists accordingly.**

The Maoz Web Page is presently being designed. We hope to have the web site online before the end of December.