



2nd Adam

Ministry Update



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Shalom Friends!

As we enter into the end of the year holidays, this year is very different. We will most likely have fewer activities, less visiting, and fewer office parties than in the past. Many of us may have wished life would not be as hectic during the time from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve in past years. But now, looking back, we realize it wasn't so bad.

Our current season of the continuing pandemic has dramatically changed our lives. People have lost jobs, businesses, and, sadly, some friends and family.

Yet, in the middle of all of this, I am reminded of the words of French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, who in 1849 wrote: "*plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*"—the more things change, the more they stay the same. . . . You may be more familiar with his quote from Bon Jovi's song: The More Things Change.

This old saying is still true. Through all the changing news we receive on a day to day basis, the basic message seems to be the same. Stay home. Wear a mask. The more information changes, the more it stays the same. We now cling to the hope of a safe vaccine to deliver us from the prison of Covid.

For us, as believers, we cling to a greater hope, one that is assured to us. No matter what may happen, no matter how it may happen, nothing can separate us from the God who loves us. Paul writes in Romans 8:37-39 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him*

who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Messiah Jesus our Lord. The world may be upside down and uncertain, but in the midst of it, we have peace.

It has been a frustrating time for me personally for the last nine months. My normal routine of travel, speaking, and teaching has been on hold for the most part. Trying to recreate the old normal seems to be a useless endeavor. It has been difficult at times to see what God's will may be. In fact, it was the process of writing this letter that forced me to think through how God may be working.

As I did, I realized God has been using me to connect and reconnect with people. I have been able to reach out to people in unique ways. Just yesterday, I connected an Israeli couple with a friend in Jewish ministry. They both live in California, and I made the connection through a friend in Israel. Someone called me from South Africa to ask for some input on a Bible project he is working on. I reconnected with an old friend, a Jewish believer from Canada, who has gone off course in their faith. I made a new friend who is a leader of a vibrant ministry in Israel with the promise of future joint projects. Two believers in Canada have asked for prayer with specific needs. I spoke to a pastor friend in New Jersey who is having an issue with his church, and I was able to encourage him. The list goes on, but I can see how this time of strengthening ties and sharing ministry is laying a stronger groundwork for the kingdom.

As we at CJFM continue to move forward with our ministries: Leading Others, Campus outreach, Bible studies, Zoom meetings, and FaceTime calls, we see God's hand at work.

Thank you all for your continued prayers in for us. If there is something you would like us to pray about, please send an email to me: robs@cjfm.org.

Please pass along my email for people to sign up for this letter: robs@cjfm.org

PLEASE BE SURE TO PREFERENCE YOUR GIFT for Rob and Sharon Styler! Why is this important? It's the only way to be sure your gift will get to us!

FINALLY, if you would like to get our letter by email, please respond with your email address. I won't give your email address to anyone else, it will only be used for our correspondence.

Thanks in Messiah,

Rob and Sharon Styler