



# Dubin's Digest

## Larry and Deb Dubin

### *Ministry Update*



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Dear Family:

Shalom from the land of never-ending summer, South Florida!! Wow, the final month of 2020! Am I hearing you say "**AMEN**"? Hallelujah! The season of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and the New Year celebrations! Deb and I hope that your heart and your eyes are focused on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Jesus, the Anchor of our soul during the journey to heaven, which includes opportunities of rejoicing in "great" days, "ok" days and "difficult & challenging" days!

We are sending you this letter to once again remind you of the Lord's favor, grace and mercy, and to encourage you to be light in this broken, chaotic, pandemic-filled world we currently call "temporary" home. As I write, we are in our 5<sup>th</sup> day of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. The lessons learned from "*Feast of Dedication*" should encourage us as this season in the history of the world and our nation are at the least... challenging!

The events as described in Daniel 8 and Daniel 11 were prophetic when written. Today, those prophetic passages are history. **HERE IS LESSON NUMBER ONE!** The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is absolutely 100% faithful to His promises! Antiochus IV attempted to destroy the Jewish people. The "miracle" of Hanukkah is that the Jewish people survived the days of destruction when Antiochus IV was the king of the Seleucid Kingdom. **HERE IS LESSON NUMBER TWO!** Review **LESSON NUMBER ONE!** The day came approximately two hundred years after the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated that Yeshua (Jesus) was involved in a question-and-answer session. May I suggest that you consider John 10:22-42? During His time in Jerusalem, Yeshua responded to one person's question by declaring to them that "*I and the Father are One.*" Yeshua attempted to inform those people that He was the God of creation, the Messiah and the coming King. The Holy One of Israel, Jesus, was faithful to the plan and He will be faithful in our day as the plan continues to unfold!

Speaking of Hanukkah, let me share about an event that we were inspired to do as an outreach to our neighbors.



Like many of you, the holidays this year are like no other. Families will not be traveling; large gatherings will not be taking place and further loneliness and isolation will inevitably have a greater effect. After a brief discussion on how we would spend Hanukkah, Deb and I decided to conduct "Operation Latke" (OL). What is Operation Latke you ask? Well, let me tell you. We went out and purchased 10 pounds of potatoes and a bag of onions and spent a Saturday peeling onions and grating potatoes to make Latkes (Yiddish for potato pancake), a traditional food eaten at every Hanukkah celebration. (Usually even every night of Hanukkah!) Deb

purchased some containers at the dollar store, and we put together a serving of Latkes (including the traditional toppings of sour cream and applesauce) and delivered it to 10 of our Jewish neighbors just after the candle lighting on the third night of Hanukkah. It was



quite a task that yielded not only a blessing for them but for us as well. The expressions on their faces as we knocked on the door and delivered this “gift” filled our hearts with joy.

Here are excerpts from a few texts that Deb received in response:

*“thank you so much for thinking of me. It has been a very lonely unhannukah season. The smell coming from your gift was wonderful.”*

*“thanking you and Larry for the most delicious potato latkes I have had in a very long time. I enjoyed them immensely.”*

*“the latkes were absolutely fabulous. I can’t believe how special you guys are to do that and drop them off. That was very sweet.”*

*“you two are the most caring people I have every met. Thanks for being you.”*

Friends, may I remind you that this act of service was not about us. It was about Jesus. It was about loving our neighbors and demonstrating Him without using words. When people tell us “how nice we are”, we tell them it’s not about us but about the God that cares about us as we care for others. This of course, has led to several conversations about where peace, hope and love comes from in a very difficult season in their lives and our world history.



As we reflect back on this year, we certainly can praise God for His faithfulness and His promises. We didn’t start out well, considering we lost our job just a few days before.... BUT GOD!

You have been on this journey with us throughout these months, and o how grateful we are that you tracked with us through your prayers, phone calls, texts, letters, emails and financial gifts. We can end the year 2020 (despite what is truly happening around us) knowing that we survived the transition, passed the tests, meditated many hours on God’s Word and matured in our faith all because our God “*never left or forsake*”. Thank you, Jesus and thank you friends for your love for us and our ministry!

*“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance toward you and give you peace.”* (Num 6:24-26)

Please let us know how we can be praying for you.

Merry Christmas!

Larry & Deb