



BERGER'S BUGLE

Ministry Update

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"[Y]ou also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift **granted us through many**" (2 Cor. 1:11, emphasis mine).

Dear brothers and sisters and supporters of my ministry to "the Jew first and also to the Gentile" (Rom. 1:16):

Shalom and greetings in the name of Yeshua HaMaschiach, Jesus the Messiah! The above verse so aptly expresses what I feel in my heart for each of you. It is through your support, both in prayer and finances, that the Lord enables me to continue in the service He has called me to. Praise His holy name!

As we continue to self-quarantine during this COVID-19 pandemic, it has also been a precious time of growing closer to the Lord. Despite the present chaotic circumstances on earth, He is still in control. It has also been a time of contemplation as we spend more time in the Word. As a result of certain restrictions, it has been a time of being rather than overtly doing. But thanks to modern technology, it has also been a time of reaching out and sharing the Gospel with a broader population in ways we would never have thought nor imagined.

What's in a Name?

Recently, I received a challenging email from someone with a question: "*I have a problem! Can you show me where, in the Bible, Jesus was ever called Immanuel?*" The verses in question were as follows:

Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin

shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:23: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:21: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name, JESUS."

This time in isolation has resulted in a confirmation of our faith and helped us grow spiritually—or it has presented certain challenges to our faith as we examine our hearts. Both are good! (Romans 8:28)

In order to respond to the question, I took a closer look at the Scriptures. I agreed that *no*, He wasn't called Immanuel because **Jesus** is His name. He was given this name because He shall save His people, the Jewish people, from their sins. Christ or Messiah is His **title**, "the anointed One of God." **Jesus** is His name, but it says here that he shall be called "**Immanuel**" which interpreted means "God with us." And He can't be **Immanuel**, God with us, unless He was born of a virgin. And, **unless** He is **Immanuel**, God with us, He cannot be Jesus, the Savior. How, then, can **Jesus** be a Savior? Because He is **Immanuel**, God with us. How did He get *with* us? He was born of a virgin. He was called **Jesus**. He was **never** called **Immanuel**. But you cannot call Him **Jesus** unless He is **Immanuel**, God with us! And He must be **Immanuel** to be the Savior of the world. **Jesus** is His human name. **Christ** or **Messiah** is His official title. And **Immanuel** describes who He is: "**GOD with us!**" Names, in biblical times, were very significant.

I rest my case.

Life Beyond My Patio

I continue to read and pray on my patio early every morning, increasingly aware of nature and my surroundings. I am in good company. Two more bunnies have emerged and are hopping around my back yard. This morning I also spotted four baby quail, who scurried quickly to take shelter under a bush. I noticed a hummingbird eggshell on the lawn, picked it up, in awe of how tiny it is, and hoped it made it out alive. (See photo) And oh the variety of birds that greet me every morning—some caw and many sing. God has provided such a wonderful setting for me to read His Word and commune with Him. This is but a microscopic glimpse of the renewal of life He has promised all believers. A friend of mine who lives on the East coast said that a deer appeared in *her* back yard. Location! Location!



Pray, Pray, Pray! Ask, Ask, Ask!

As I ask God for opportunities to share the Gospel message, I praise Him and thank Him for the people He has brought into my life. Please join me in praying for the salvation of the following: five Jewish men; three Jewish women; a Greek Orthodox woman; a Turkish Muslim neighbor. I stay in touch with all of them. The Greek Orthodox woman, "Nina," said that hearing the Gospel message and the fact that I,

too, grew up in the Greek Orthodox faith has given her much to think about and question. She confirmed that she would like to come to church with me when services begin. I also receive many phone calls from widowed friends, men and women alike, who need fellowship and encouragement during these challenging times. Please pray for strength and courage for all of us.

By the time you receive this, our Bible study, **Tikvah BaMidbar (Hope in the Desert)**, would have resumed in accordance with specific guidelines. Please pray for the Lord's arms of protection to encircle us as we teach the Jewish perspective of God's Word to believers and share the Gospel message with the unsaved. I covet your prayers that our ministry would be fruitful. Visit our website: tikvahbamidbar.org.

It has also been inspiring to participate in weekly Zoom meetings with my CJFM missionary co-workers, national and international, led by our Director of Missions, Rob Styler. We call it our "*Schmooze and Prayer Time*." Please feel free to email or call me (see header) with your prayer requests. May we pray the will of God into existence.

Thank You!

I thank our Savior for His indescribable gift. I, once again, thank you for the love you have shown me through your faithful prayers and financial gifts that make all things possible. May our Lord bless you and protect you, as you have blessed me and "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." It is a privilege to serve as your "arm of extension" into the Jewish community.

In Messiah's love and mine,

Violette Berger

As the Lord leads, please include a note preferring all future gifts for **Violette Berger** to:

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