

Ink On Their Fingers

Stefan & Letitia Bergen's Newsletter

Newsletter #18
April 2020

He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:7-10)

Worthy is the Lamb

The above Scripture passage from Revelation is truly one of a kind. We are given a vision of the very throne room of the Almighty, and get to witness the glorious moment when Jesus Christ is given his reward for humbling himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). It is easy to simply get caught up in praise and thanksgiving because we have been forgiven of our sins, but it is important that we also recognize that the ultimate purpose of this forgiveness was so that we would be made into His priests! In 1 Peter 2:9 we read, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."



Praise in Passover

This past week we took Ethan and David to the Old City of Jerusalem. Passover is being celebrated, and we had the privilege of witnessing thousands of religious Jews visiting the city to pray and feast. Jerusalem almost felt like normal again. While we were waiting in line for ice cream, with crowds of people passing by, Ethan decided to break out into song at the top of his lungs: "We'll shout till the whole world hears it, we'll sing till the whole world knows, King Jesus, He is faithful, He is our blessed hope!" This is one of his favorite worship songs... We couldn't help but think of what Jesus said in Matthew 21:16, "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise."



Eulogy for Oma Bergen

Last week we learned that Stefan's oma (Anganetha Bergen) in Paraguay passed away. She was 99 years old, and still lived in her own home. The LORD blessed her with good health and she was able to die in her own bed, without medication or pain killers. Stefan recently read a book that featured Oma during her young adult years and her escape from the former Soviet Union. It was a great encouragement to hear how the LORD protected and guided her through the hardships of World War II and ultimately led her to freedom. Stefan remembers that during her last visit to Canada in 2006, Oma was very supportive of his plans to volunteer in Israel. She recalled that during her childhood the Mennonites in the Ukraine helped teach the new Jewish communities how to farm the land. Oma made sure that Stefan understood that the Jewish people are the apple of God's eye, and that there is a special blessing for those who bless them (Zechariah 2:8, Deuteronomy 32:10; Genesis 12:3, Psalm 122:6).



Labour of Love

Letitia has been busy making wedding dresses again! A few weeks ago the younger daughter of an Israeli that Stefan volunteers with at Bridges for Peace asked Letitia if she would make her a wedding dress. The last wedding dress that Letitia made was four years ago, and was for her older



sister. Soon after starting to make the dress, an orthodox Jewish friend of Letitia's asked her to make a wedding dress for her as well. So Letitia has been busy finding babysitters for the boys so that she can get the dresses done in time for the upcoming weddings. It has been a beautiful labour of love that Letitia has been honored and blessed to take on during this season!

Ink On Their Fingers *Continued*

Bridges of Blessing

Bridges for Peace has also taken on an extra labour of love this season. With the extra finances that have come in over the past year, Bridges for Peace has decided to give an extra special Passover gift to over 1,000 Holocaust survivors around Israel. The gift includes a bottle of grape juice, unleavened bread, and a bag of groceries. Our now small team has worked tirelessly to purchase, package, and deliver these gifts to the homes of the precious few Holocaust survivors that still remain. The response to this act of love has been overwhelming, especially because this is the first holiday that Israelis have been able to celebrate in over a year.

Stefan has also been busy working on ways to make the operations of Bridges for Peace more efficient, especially as our number of volunteers has been diminishing. For the past year, Bridges for Peace has not been allowed to receive new volunteer visas. Over the past year many of our long term volunteers have felt called to return home. As a result, the ministry of Bridges for Peace has had to try to adapt. Stefan is currently working on a strategy to increase the number of people that Bridges for Peace ministers to on a regular basis. Last year was a year of financial miracle, and Stefan is working closely with the rest of the leadership of Bridges for Peace to make sure that the money is stewarded well and according to the LORD's will.



Pure Joy

It has been a pure joy to watch Ethan and David grow up especially over the past few months. Ethan has developed a keen sense of right and wrong, and he definitely has the gift of the gab! David never ceases to amaze us with his incredible strength, and his caring heart. The two brothers are inseparable and absorbing every moment of the adventure of living in the Holy Land...

Missing You

We desperately wish that we could thank each of you in person for the love, prayers, and support that you have poured out for our family. It is our fervent prayer and hope that we will be given the opportunity to visit you all again soon. May the LORD bless you and your family abundantly with every spiritual blessing in Christ!

With all our Love,

*Stefan, Letitia,
Ethan & David*

PARTNER WITH US *Prayer* ISRAEL

- Please continue to pray for the volatile political and Covid situation in Israel.
- Please pray that the LORD would protect the people of Israel, and that his will would be done in this nation.
- Please pray for wisdom and direction for Stefan and the leadership of Bridges for Peace as they plan to expand the ministry
- Please continue to pray that Bridges for Peace would be able to receive volunteers again
- Please pray for protection, guidance and health for our family



Snow in Jerusalem

Want to stay connected?

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