

Ink On Their Fingers

Stefan & Letitia Bergen's Newsletter

Newsletter #13
July 2019

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?" For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen (Romans 11:33-36).

Milestone

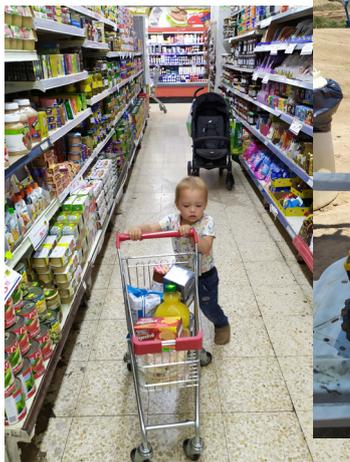
Three years have now passed since we stepped out in faith to answer the LORD's call on our lives, and we continue to feel beyond privileged to be serving the LORD in Israel. He has been so good, all glory to Him! We want to thank you all again from the bottom of our hearts for your constant love and friendship. Thank you for covering us in prayer and enabling us to do the work that the LORD has prepared for us here in Israel.

Family Update

Letitia is due on August 5th! We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of another precious gift from the LORD! We have chosen to keep the gender a surprise... thank you for praying with us, Letitia has had a healthy pregnancy albeit a little uncomfortable at times. We are busy preparing for the birth, please continue to keep us in prayer especially over the next few weeks.



Ethan is also preparing to become a big brother! He is already blossoming into a fine little man of 21 months... his vocabulary is exploding and expanding every day, but his favorite word is still "bus!" He loves helping mummy with chores around the house, especially vacuuming. He also loves pushing the cart at the grocery store so mummy doesn't have to. When daddy gets home he loves to help fix things with daddy's tools. He's getting faster and faster on his bike, and reads as many books as he possibly can in between building towers with his blocks and driving his trucks around the apartment. We could go on and on, but instead we hope that our pictures of Ethan are like a thousand words...



Ministry Update

Over the past couple months Bridges for Peace has been extending help to a small Jewish community that was completely destroyed by a forest fire. The morning after the fire, Stefan received a phone call from a friend who knew a family from the community. The family had lost everything and this friend was hoping that Bridges for Peace could do something. Over fifty thousand dollars has now been given to help the families of this community rebuild their lives. Stefan along with other volunteers from Bridges for Peace were also able to visit members of the community and offer them words of encouragement, letting them know that the support we bring comes from Christians around the world who love them.

Two weeks ago Stefan had the very special opportunity to witness 300 new immigrants step off the airplane to make Israel their new home. Over the past 50 years Bridges for Peace has helped over 70 thousand Jews immigrate to Israel from all around the world. Most of these immigrants are fleeing anti-Semitism, war, or poverty. When they finally arrive in Israel many find the harsh realities of living here more than they can bear. Bridges for Peace offers food and financial assistance to over 20 thousand struggling immigrants every month. Many are shocked and deeply touched when they discover that this vital support and love comes from Christians.



Stefan's accounting department at Bridges for Peace has recently relocated to the food bank building in order to work more closely with the operations of the ministry. Some of the administrative processes at the food bank need updating and improving, so Stefan has been asked to oversee the implementation of a new inventory software system. Please pray for Stefan and Bridges for Peace over the next few critical months of change.



Ink On Their Fingers *Continued*

In our last newsletter we also asked you to pray for the ministry of Bridges for Peace as we are facing financial hardship and a building move. We are now in the process of renovating an office space for our headquarters in the old industrial zone of Jerusalem. The lower rent will save a significant amount of money for the ministry long term. Thank you for praying, we believe that the LORD has lead us and blessed us with this new location.

Comings and Goings

The joys and sorrows of living in such a transient international community of friends is the comings and goings... great friends leave and new friends arrive. Recently we had to say "bye bye" to one of Ethan's little play buddies along with a close friend of Letitia's because her husband's work visa came to a close - it had been a wonderful season of friendship and adventure.



Last week we had to say some of the most difficult goodbyes of our lives. One of the young families from our congregation who were great friends of ours were involved in a tragic car accident. The lives of both parents were lost along with their newborn son, leaving their two and a half year old daughter orphaned. The sudden shock of this tragic news consumed our lives with tears and prayers. But it also left us with an amazing sense of comfort, support in our church community, and the very real knowledge that our hope in Jesus is such a defining difference between those who believe and those who do not. The couple whose lives were lost were such strong witnesses in their sphere of influence, and even in death the testimony of their faith in Yeshua was broadcast boldly across the entire nation through the media coverage of the accident. God promises to be with us through these times and bring good out of it all. He surely has been faithful to that promise, even more than what we can understand or see at this time. Please join us as we continue to pray for the families and especially for Ethan's little friend who has a very difficult journey ahead of her.

Season of Visitors

Stefan's sister Rosalyn and her husband Grant came to visit us during Passover. It was a special and exciting time for all of us as we tried our best to take them all over Israel in just over a week. More recently Letitia's sister Christina came for a spontaneous visit. She was a great help to Letitia who has been finding it difficult to haul the groceries home. Ethan also enjoyed the extra attention from his aunty! We were also blessed by a short visit from Rainer Thiessen in May. He spent three weeks in Israel doing a Biblical Geography course at the Jerusalem University College. The school was founded in 1958 by G. Douglas Young, and in 1976 he also founded Bridges for Peace. Dr. Young founded many Bible schools all around the world, but after spending the last years of his life in Israel he felt a burning passion to reach the Jewish people. Bridges for Peace continues with this vision and mission until today. Thank you for partnering with us!



PARTNER WITH US *Prayer* ISRAEL

- Pray for Ruti, the two and a half year old orphaned daughter of our friends, and the families who are mourning the loss of their loved ones.
- Pray for the salvation of the many Jewish friends and colleagues who were touched by the testimonies shared at the funerals.
- Continue to pray for a healthy pregnancy and baby, and for our family as we prepare to welcome another member!
- Pray for wisdom and strength for Stefan as he navigates the big changes at both Bridges for Peace and at home over the next few months.
- Pray for protection and provision.



Want to stay connected?

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With all our Love,

*Stefan
Letitia
Ethan*