

# Beit Simcha ("House of Joy") Newsletter

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## The Road to Jerusalem!

We're on the Road! Beit Simcha, Beth El Gibor, OneVoice, Share the Power and Calvary Temple will co-sponsor our first Road to Jerusalem event, a banquet featuring Coach Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers, and anointed worship leader Paul Wilbur! Mark your calendar: Saturday evening, December 8, at Calvary Temple (that's right, the congregation with that rents the large billboard on Route 22). We're expecting great things—so please pray for greater things than we expect!



Coach McCartney, Founder and Chairman, The Road to Jerusalem

From [www.RoadtoJerusalem.com](http://www.RoadtoJerusalem.com): "By demonstrating the love of Yeshua (Jesus), THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM shall lead in a ministry of reconciliation exhorting Christians and the Messianic Jewish community to stand together in relational oneness. We will encourage both groups to walk hand in hand in humility and work heart to heart in love, so as to evoke Jewish people worldwide to jealousy causing them to know their Messiah. The impact of this will lead both Jew and Gentile to find peace in Messiah, and be life from the dead for the world as they travel together in the biblical pathway to world wide revival."

Dr. Raleigh Washington will present the vision of the Road to pastors at Share the Power lunch at Calvary Baptist, Bethlehem (briefly) on October 3 at noon, then in more depth at a OneVoice meeting at New Covenant on October 4 at 9am—please urge pastors in our region to attend!



## High Holiday Services

"Wherever you are, when you hear the sound of the shofar, come to that place, to us. Our God will fight for us!" (Nehemiah 4:20). Services for **Rosh Hashana** (*Yom Teruah*, Day of Blowing of Shofars) are **Wed, Sep 12, 7:30PM at Beit Simcha** and **Thu, Sep 13, 11AM at Beth El Gibor** (the morning service is Beth El Gibor's first Torah service!) Our **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) services are **Fri, Sep 21, 7:30PM (*Kol Nidre*) at Beth El Gibor** and **Shabbat, Sep 22, 10AM at Beit Simcha**, ending with a *Neilah* (Closing the Gates) service at **5:45PM at Beit Simcha** before breaking the fast at sunset.

We will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in our *sukkah* on **Thu, Sep 27, 11AM** and **Shabbat, Sep 29, 10AM**. Please bring harvest decorations for our congregational *sukkah*!

Finally we celebrate *Simchat Torah* (the joy of Torah) on **Shabbat, Oct 6, 10AM**. Mark your calendars and invite others! *L'shana tovah tikatevu! May you be inscribed for a good year!*

## Ted Pearce—Never Forget!

One of our favorite musicians, Ted Pearce of "Zealous over Zion" will join our worship team, then sing and share testimonies on **Sept 15, 10AM**. Apropos Shabbat Shuvah (repentance), Ted will share about his recent experiences on the March of Life, last spring, following the route of the death marches from Stuttgart to Dachau (near Munich). It was a historic prayer for reconciliation while standing against the silence concerning the Nazi crimes and the newly arising worldwide anti-Semitism. Expect a powerful time of healing, reconciliation and restoration. Watch Ted's powerful video about the six million at [tedpearce.com/Videos/TheForgottenpeople.html](http://tedpearce.com/Videos/TheForgottenpeople.html).

## An Open Door of Faith

The Lord has opened a door for us, a door that leads into the kingdom of God! The catch is: it's a spiritual door. To see it, we need eyes of faith. To walk through it, we need feet of righteousness.

Believers often speak of the Lord opening a door or pray that he would open a door for them. How many of you have heard such lingo or used it yourself? You may pray that the Lord would open or close a door for a marriage or a career choice or some other possible business opportunity.

But you may wonder, how do you know if it is actually a door that the Lord is opening? How many of you have wondered about such things? Then... we pray for more discernment.

There are several references to an open door in the New Covenant: Ac 14:27 "On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." 1Corinthians 16:9 "A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. 2Corinthians 2:12 "Now when I went to Troas to proclaim the good news of Messiah and found that the Lord had opened a door for me." Colossians 4:3 "And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Messiah, for which I am in chains." Consider these verses together.

Who opens this door? The Lord: God. What role do we, as believers, have in opening the door? We express faith; we pray. When the door opens, what's on the other side? Where does it lead? It leads to a place of proclaiming the good news of Messiah, expanding the kingdom of God.

In the Bible, the door is never just about an opportunity for an individual; it's always about an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God. It's not about me! It's about the kingdom of God! Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done!

So, what do these verses teach us about discerning whether an opportunity is an open door for us? We should ask: Will this opportunity help proclaim the good news and advance the kingdom of God? So what does your personal opportunity have to do with advancing the kingdom of God?

It might have a lot to do with it. When I proposed to Pamela, it wasn't because I was in love. It was because I was convinced, through many confirmations, that it was the Lord's will. I believe our marriage has helped to advance the kingdom of God. Through our marriage, the Lord created a congregation! Through our marriage, the Lord brought two children to a home where they are growing hearing the good news and experiencing the kingdom.

So, when you pray for the Lord to open a door, remember that you are asking for a way to advance the kingdom of God, to proclaim the good news about Messiah.

Instead of an open door, the Hebrew Scriptures speaks of opening the gates. Isaiah 26:2-3: "Open the gates that the

righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you." Psalm 118:19-21: "Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation."

Who enters through these gates? The righteous. How do we know that the righteous are righteous? We know because the righteous nation keeps faith; they are righteous because of their faith in God and his Messiah. The righteous enter and give thanks—that is, through their obedience. Faith and obedience walk hand in hand, because biblical faith is active, responding to God's will.

If I see the open door, and do not walk through it, what good is that? Back in June, Conni had a prophetic vision, in which she saw a door open wide and heard the Lord say, "You knock and you knock, and I open the door and say, 'what do you want?' The door is open! You need to walk through!" What is the Lord saying to us? When he opens the door to the kingdom, do not just stand there gawking! Walk through it!

Again, how do we know whether we are looking at a door that the Lord has opened? Our first criterion is: do we see a way to proclaim the good news and advance the kingdom of God?

The Lord will allow us to confirm whether we are indeed standing at a door that he has opened.

He allowed Gideon to put out fleeces. He allowed Paul and Barnabus to seek confirmation from the elders at Antioch. If we ask him, The Lord will confirm an open door, through circumstances and godly counsel. The key is: when he shows you a door and confirms that it is indeed open for you, will you walk through it? The Lord is looking for faith that is active, faith that is willing to do His will.

How about you? Do you have the faith to see the open door? Do you have the faith to walk through it?

I believe that the Lord is opening the door of faith to us in many ways. Last January at the IAMCS Rabbis conference, Messianic Rabbi Eric Carlson told me about the impact of bringing the Road to

Jerusalem to his area. A large church co-hosted a weekend conference. Within a year, Eric's congregation doubled in size! Many Jews came to faith.

That got me excited. Especially because I knew that there are people in our congregation who were at that conference and loved what they saw—Steve and Tracy Abush, Scott and Anita Smith, and others. I brought the vision for bringing R2J back to our leadership team. Well, ladies and gentlemen, we're on the Road! How many of you believe this is an open door of faith? Then please activate your faith and pray!

Many of have moved or will move. Are these open doors? Will this move advance the good news of the kingdom of God?

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matt 6:33). A move that creates stability for children can do so, if the parents keep the kingdom before them. A move that improves your finances can do so, if it involves keeping faith in kingdom promises, so that others can join you in giving praise to our Father in heaven. If a door of faith is hard to see, get counsel from people with godly wisdom and righteousness, and activate your faith through prayer. To see the open door, you need eyes of faith, and feet of righteousness—that is, feet willing to walk through the door, without fear, full of confidence that the Lord and his kingdom are there. Baruch Hashem! Praise His name!