

Ink On Their Fingers

Stefan & Leticia Bergen's Newsletter

Newsletter #21
April 2022

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." (Matthew 28:1-7).

Jerusalem

Passover, Ramadan, and Easter are all being celebrated at the same time this year. Jewish, Muslim, and Christian pilgrims from around the world are all coming to Jerusalem to observe these holidays. There is certainly a heightened sense of the spiritual realm here right now. Please pray that our risen LORD would continue to reveal himself in the same place that he first did two thousand years ago!

Help in Crisis

Bridges for Peace is doing all that it can to help Ukrainian refugees. For decades, Bridges for Peace has partnered with a ministry that works in the former Soviet Union. We fund soup kitchens and visit the homes of the most needy in the Ukraine, as well as help Jewish people immigrate to Israel.



When the refugee crisis in the Ukraine broke out two months ago, our well established network of ministry partners there sprang into action to help as much as they could. As the donations have poured in, they have been working tirelessly to save lives. Stefan's grandparents were Ukrainian refugees during World War 2. The LORD in His great mercy preserved their lives as they fled from the Soviet army after being starved for years by the Soviet system. We are so privileged to be able to help those who are suffering in the same way and on the same soil as our ancestors. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that the LORD saved them when so many perished.

Bridges for Peace has also partnered with Israeli organisations to care for and rescue Jewish refugees, as well as sending a field hospital and armoured ambulances to Western Ukraine. In the last few weeks a total of \$500,000 has been raised and donated. It's estimated that 100,000 Ukrainian refugees will be coming to Israel this year. Stefan is working closely with the Bridges for Peace outreach team to develop new IT systems to be able to help meet the needs of this influx of new immigrants. Right now refugees are being given temporary accommodations in hotels, but after a few weeks they will need to move out on their own to make room for others. We are preparing to help as many as possible as they try to heal from trauma and get back on their feet in a new country.



Volunteers

The LORD is sending volunteers to Bridges for Peace once again. After two years of almost completely closed borders, people from around the world are applying to volunteer. By this summer it looks like we will finally have a full staff again. This is an answer to many months of prayer, thank you!

A Place to Call Home

The LORD has blessed us with a new home!!! Just when we felt like we couldn't take it anymore, the LORD opened the doors to a larger apartment with two bedrooms and a garden, and within our budget! It is located in our current neighbourhood, enabling us to continue building on the relationships we have formed over the past four years. Thank you for praying! We had looked hard for a place before Caleb's birth, but all the doors were closing on us. So we decided to wait until after the birth to move. A few days before Caleb's due date we found out that the small house across the street from us would be turning into the construction site of a large tower in a matter of weeks. In Jerusalem that means months of very loud drilling into bedrock in order to provide parking for the building. We will be moving around July 1st so please join us in praying that the drilling will continue to be delayed. Thank you again for praying with us and encouraging us through this trial, the LORD is good!

Ink On Their Fingers *Continued*

Bergen Boys

Caleb is such a blessing! He is just over two months old now, and growing as fast as he can to catch up with his two big brothers.... Our family is so grateful for showering us with your prayers. It was a very difficult pregnancy for Letitia, with severe nausea for almost nine months straight. But we were blessed with another healthy baby boy, our biggest so far!



Ethan loves his little brothers! His favourite thing to do is smother Caleb with kisses and wrestle David. Ethan has decided that he wants to be a train engineer when he grows up. He can spend hours building extremely complicated trains with his Legos, and has a vivid and creative imagination.



David has transitioned from being our baby to being a big brother! He is one of the most verbally gifted two year olds you will ever meet. The other day he spent a couple hours having tea in our neighbour's garden, and half the neighbourhood stopped to chat with him. David's blond hair and blue eyes are a big hit here in Israel, and he easily wins over the hearts of everyone he talks to.



Extended Family

Letitia's younger sister got married in locked-down Australia. Even though we were not able to be there in person, Letitia made and sent a beautiful wedding dress in our stead. We are looking forward to one day being able to celebrate with them in person!

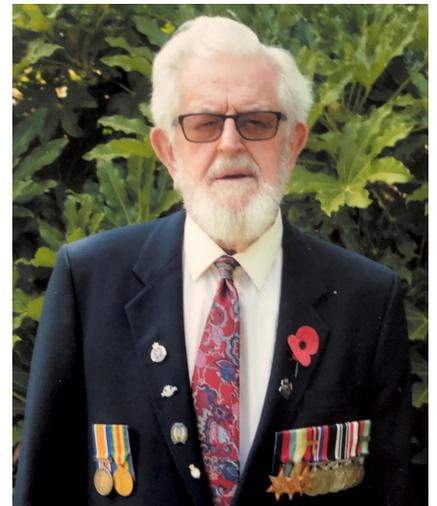
Letitia's Poppa passed away suddenly at the age of 95. He held an extra special place in Letitia's heart. She spent a lot of time with him during her teen and young adult years. Poppa had been in the New Zealand navy during World War 2. One of his experiences while stationed in the Mediterranean Sea was influential in Letitia's first coming to Israel. We wish we could be with the family at this time.

With all our Love,

*Stefan, Letitia,
Ethan, David & Caleb*

PARTNER WITH US *Prayer* ISRAEL

- Please pray for our ministry partners in the Ukraine
- Please pray for the Ukrainian refugees immigrating to Israel
- Please pray for Israel during these holidays and this new wave of terror attacks
- Please pray for Bridges for Peace as we navigate the changes ahead
- Please pray for our family as we move to our new apartment



Want to stay connected?

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