

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

Our Shefa Gardens project continues to unfold under the stewardship of Boaz and Rina Dreyer. Shefa is located in the Negev of Israel about 30 km from the Egyptian border. This fall, after the current sabbatical year concludes, we will begin preparing the land for our first planting of grape vines and herbs. Shefa will ultimately serve as an anchor of Ephraim's bridge home.

Worship is an essential part of Israel. One of our ongoing projects involves our desire to upgrade the sound and look of Messianic music, thereby increasing the reach of Messianic artists. This involves two fronts: establishing a worship leaders training center in Eskdale, Utah and the creation of Abiron Records. Creating awesome music is one thing, the high quality recording, presentation, and distribution of the music is another. We also need to train up the next generation of worship leaders within Messianic Israel. This involves much more than finding great musicians. Leading His people in worship is a weighty responsibility that we hope to nurture within Messianic Israel.

You can see that these goals and projects center on our two primary functions: gathering and equipping. With YHWH's help, and your support, we will once again have an awesome year. Each day we step out in faith. Some days are challenging, but most are very encouraging. It is an honor to serve.

An Invitation

It is indeed an honor, and a responsibility, to serve God's people. Perhaps you have a unique gift or calling that would help the MIA's team serve more effectively. The needs are endless and the compensation is low, but the eternal rewards are great! Please contact our home office should you desire to apply your skills and passion to serving in this restoration process.

We believe in being fruit inspectors, walking circumspectly, and looking at where Yahweh is working and joining Him there. We invite you to examine the faithfulness and fruit of the MIA and consider bringing your gifts to this team. If we are not currently doing something that you feel is vital, it is probably because you are the one who is supposed to do it! Come and join in this work of the

Father.

There is room for individuals, families, ministries, and congregations in the MIA. All of these are building blocks within Israel. When we work together, we have greater impact and significance in the eyes of others. When we can go to our brothers in the Land and beyond with large numbers of people as part of the MIA then we gain their ear and influence. Numbers do matter. It is critical that we get past any minor differences and pull together as a true alliance; the Messianic Israel Alliance.

Wrapping Up

Yes, ten years goes quickly. There have been times of trouble and times of joy. We have matured and are now poised to face the future – however long we may have before Messiah's return. Growth is never easy, but always necessary. What an amazing journey it has been.

In this age of independence, the MIA is a true alliance of like-minded individuals, families, congregations, and ministries. We believe in unity, not uniformity. Working together toward a common vision, with mutual respect and compassion, we can set an example for the world and truly be a light to the nations. Standing together allows us to stand strong.

Today, the MIA has an ever-increasing and talented team ready to accomplish great things for the Father. With your support and His blessing, we can indeed rebuild His nation. There is much to do, but together we will be victorious. If you have not joined our family, please do so today by becoming an Ally or Friend of the MIA. For those who have been sojourning with us, thank you! You are part of our family, a family called Israel!

Special note: At the end of the day, the MIA is your organization. You, our faithful Allies and Friends, are indeed the heart of the MIA. There have been many awesome memories created through the MIA over the past ten years. Please send an e-mail to our home office (ask@messianicisrael.com) with your favorite MIA memory. We will publish those over the next year as we approach our 10th anniversary.

Our Need

The Herald and the ministries of the Messianic Israel Alliance rely upon the generous contributions of our faithful family of friends. At this time we humbly ask that you consider supporting the vision of restored Israel through blessing this cutting-edge ministry with your tithes and offerings. We realize that many options exist when it comes to where you choose to send your contributions, but, if you have been blessed by the work of this ministry, we implore you to return the blessing with both your spiritual and financial support. All donations are both tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you for your faithfulness.

The Herald

The Herald is published monthly by the Messianic Israel Alliance. Annual subscriptions are available by either visiting www.messianicisrael.com or sending a check or money order for \$20 (US) to the MIA, P.O. Box 3263, Lebanon, TN 37088. Add \$10 (US) for all subscriptions outside the U.S. The Herald welcomes submissions for publication.

Copyright

This issue © 2008 The Messianic Israel Alliance. Articles and artwork in the Herald may not be reproduced without the expressed permission of either the Messianic Israel Alliance or the author/artist.

To learn more about the prophetic mission and work of the Messianic Israel Alliance visit: messianicisrael.com

I AM ISRAEL AUGUST 8-11, 2008
Join with the people of Israel as we stand together to declare our unity.
Visit www.messianicisrael.com to find out more about the MIA's International Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Herald
JULY-AUGUST 2008
THE MESSIANIC ISRAEL ALLIANCE

special report:

Celebrating 10 Years of Restoration

The Messianic Israel Alliance will be entering our tenth year this coming September. The MIA has grown over the years from the seeds planted by Angus and Batya Wootten (House of David). They had compiled a directory from their years of ministry to people who were seeing the truth about Ephraim and Judah. The people on that directory were invited to become part of a new organization – the MIA in early 1999. From there, Angus established a steering committee that was instrumental in putting together the first MIA conference over Labor Day weekend of that year in Orlando, Florida. The MIA was born. The intent of this article is to summarize the last nine years, examine our position today, and then look ahead to the coming years.

Since our inception, the God of Israel has used the MIA to take the message concerning the restoration of all Israel throughout the world. With that, we have had our share of detractors and advocates. We have faced enemies from within and without our ranks. Some have left, but many more have joined our efforts to unite all of Israel. We have worked hard to promote His Kingdom – and not our own – while advancing the Biblical truth about the restoration of the whole House of Israel in Messiah Y'shua. Our focus has been on equipping and gathering His people for the restoration of all things spoken by His holy prophets. We continue with that mission, and today we are reaching out farther than ever before.

Like any living entity, the MIA has grown over the years. We have matured. This process of growth has not been void of pain nor per-

fectly executed. It has required sacrifice, faithfulness, and firm resolve to proclaim the truth about the people, land, and Scriptures of Israel. The early days were exciting. Unfortunately, that excitement ultimately led to some strife. The maturation process has refined us and opened a new vista for the MIA, as consistency has brought about stability. Our growth is steady, true, and peaceful.

As we begin our tenth year, we continue to assess and realign our priorities and actions in light of His Word, seeking His will for the MIA in the future. The Ruach haKodesh is illuminating His people throughout the world. These former gentiles are being "brought nigh" to Israel by the blood of our Messiah as they awaken to their lost heritage. No longer strangers, they now realize that they are part of His eternal plan of salvation and part of His eternal family, Israel. It is indeed our Father's desire for His people to be one nation and the MIA shall continue to proclaim that truth throughout the world.

Still to many, the MIA is brand new. On one hand, there are those who have stood with us through the years, slugging it out in the trenches. On the other hand, we have awesome folks who are just coming into the knowledge of the restoration of Israel. Part of our responsibility is to help the old hands continue to move towards Zion while the new ones come on board. They each require different support because they are at varied places along His path. Yet all need encouragement, love, and a bit of nourishment along the journey. Old or new, they share the same destiny.

CONTINUED INSIDE

CONTINUED FROM FRONTPAGE

Today, the MIA is poised to offer even greater service and support to the people of Israel. Since we have evolved over the years, it is important that we communicate our progress and current condition to those we serve. To that end, here is an overview of where the MIA stands today.

Current Events

Today, the MIA is a multifaceted entity. We are the primary (not the only) vehicle the Father is using on the earth at this hour to proclaim the truth about all of Israel. We are being used by the Father to rebuild the nation of Israel. This is a task that has not been envisioned for thousands of years and is a slow process that requires firm resolve. Our primary calling is to bring His people together while equipping and encouraging them for their journey to Zion.

Our principal functions to fulfill our calling are broken down into two primary areas. First, we spread the message concerning the restoration of all of Israel through books, web sites, conferences, and feast celebrations. Secondly, we offer guidance and support to individuals, ministries, fellowships, and congregations around the world. This includes building ongoing relationships with, and developing support for, shepherds and other leadership personnel. Basically, we spread the message, gather His people, and attempt to support them along the road to Zion.

We believe that Israel is a team sport requiring patience, grace, and faithfulness. It is easy to be offended and hard to be steadfast. This is simply a choice we each make daily. Will we faithfully serve or will we flee? As we prepare to enter our 10th year, we choose to faithfully serve. Many wannabe prophets said we would not make it this far, but here we are, strong and ever-growing.

Today, the MIA is comprised of thousands of individuals, hundreds of Allies and Friends, and over 50 congregations and fellowships. Our international reach is expanding. Our mailing list includes over 35 countries. The vehicle that started this organization, our online directory, continues to be a great source for like-minded Believers to find one another. Through this valuable resource, we have been able to connect thousands of people throughout the world.

Each day we are faced with new opportunities to serve His people. Our primary ongoing daily responsibilities include the following:

- [Telephone support to our members and other individuals](#)
- [Management of our web site](#)
- [Compiling and mailing the MIA Herald each month](#)
- [Providing weekly Torah commentaries and informative editorials](#)
- [Equipping His people with quality products and services](#)
- [Offering counsel and guidance to congregational](#)

leaders

- [Working on real, integrity-filled opportunities for Believers in the Land](#)
- [Hosting our conferences \(or “family reunions”\) throughout the United States and beyond.](#)
- [Building relationships with other like-minded ministries](#)

These daily responsibilities tie into our long range goals and ultimately our mission; “Equipping YHWH’s people for the restoration of all things.” These long-term goals are attained through a daily commitment to excellence and service.

Team MIA

Our team has expanded and evolved over the years. Out of the initial steering committee came the Shepherd’s Council. Two members remain from that initial group and another has been added. While the MIA has always taken a strong stance in support of male headship, we also believe firmly in men listening to the counsel of their wives, thereby gaining broader and more complete understanding. Therefore, today’s Shepherd’s Council has six members: John and Joie Conrad, Scott and Jane Diffenderfer, and Hale and Shelly Harris.

The Shepherd’s Council serves the MIA as an oversight committee. This group of people is responsible for the general direction and long-range purpose of the MIA. The Shepherd’s Council offers advice, accountability, and direction to the MIA’s Allies and Friends as needed. At the end of the day, it is the Shepherd’s Council who steers the MIA toward Zion and is responsible for the direction and results of the MIA.

The MIA’s founders, Angus and Batya Wootten, serve faithfully as advisors to the Shepherd’s Council and act as Ambassadors of the MIA. We are blessed to have their unique insight into the restoration of all of Israel as they continue to labor faithfully along side the Shepherd’s Council.

Hale Harris is the General Secretary of the MIA. In this position, Hale applies his wisdom and experience as a leader and shepherd in Israel. The overall tenor and scope of the MIA are Hale’s main concerns, providing accountability and counsel as needed.

Scott Diffenderfer serves as the Executive Director of the MIA. This position is responsible for directing the day to day operations and short term goals of the MIA. Scott directs the MIA’s staff and coordinates the various activities of the MIA.

Cathy Wright serves as the Office Manager for the MIA. Cathy handles the daily operations including fulfilling orders, telephone operations, finances, mailings, inventory, and other related tasks. When you call, it is Cathy who typically answers the telephone and handles your request.

Benjamin Diffenderfer is the Director of Communications for the MIA. Ben designs and manages our web site (www.messianicisrael.com), coordinates our international conference, posts our bulk e-mail

announcements, including Torah commentaries, and handles many other related tasks. Benjamin is an MBA and also works for the Seattle Times.

Ed Harris is our Director of Community Relations. Ed is a shepherd at heart. He and his wife Chava serve as congregational leaders of Beit Messiach in St. Louis. Ed’s strength is relating with people and his role involves exactly that; building relationships between the various people who comprise the MIA while working closely with Scott and Cathy on different aspects of the MIA’s operations.

Daniel and Sylvia Calderon are the Conference Coordinators for the MIA. They schedule and organize the multiple events we host each year. Their sensitivity to His Spirit and passion for restoring the true worship of Yahweh has allowed them to excel in this position. Should you desire to have the MIA host an event in your area you may contact them at: dansyl@messianicisrael.com.

Our weekly Torah commentaries which go out to thousands each week are written by faithful servants Natan and Sandy Lawrence, Carl and Julie Parker, and Boaz Dreyer from Israel. These commentaries are a great blessing to many around the world and used as the curriculum for many weekly Sabbath gatherings.

The MIA is also served by our Advisory Committee who offer their wisdom to the Shepherd’s Council as needed. This council is comprised of individuals each having unique perspectives on Kingdom related matters. Not a ruling body, rather, the Advisory Council is exactly what its name implies; a group of folks who give advice!

Volunteers – we would be lost without our volunteers. There are many people who help in our office, participate at events, and assist the MIA from their own locations throughout the world. These faithful soldiers get to do all the glory jobs like stuffing envelopes, packing boxes, calling our members, serving at conferences, and other great stuff! Volunteers truly are the heart of the MIA and we give thanks for Caitlin, Vicky, Eleanor, Joseph, Caleb, Emily, Bethany, Daniel, Abby, Melinda, Luke, Jennifer, Molly, Eliana, Danielle, Melissa, Aaron, John, and all the others!

Many others offer their talents in conjunction with our conferences. Chester Anderson, David Sturlin, Jimmie Black, Kate Lundy, Steve Manning, and so many more graciously serve His people as we gather together at our “family reunions.”

Funding

The MIA is financially supported through various methods. Donations, tithes and offerings, conference fees, product sales, and membership fees are the primary income channels for this ministry. This income is used to fund the MIA operational expenses, including supplies, equipment, travel expenses, postage, conference expenses, personnel, and other operating costs.

Over the years we have never made great pleas for funding, but the needs are certainly present. Funding is perhaps our greatest challenge today as we could do so much more if we had more resources. Yet, we are grateful for every dollar that is donated. The annual budget of the MIA is miniscule compared to those of many other Messianic ministries. We do not have many large donors, just a multitude of large hearts. We are supported by many people who give what they

can as the Spirit leads. We do not use fancy tactics or manipulative methods to increase our financial resources. Instead, we simply walk by faith attempting to be good stewards over what is given. We hope that our efforts will speak for themselves. We are blessed to have several people faithfully send in their support each month; some have done so for many years.

This is indeed a grassroots movement and our shoestring budget is indicative of that. There is always just enough funding to maintain the work that is currently placed before us. If we had more support our reach and impact could greatly improve. Please consider investing your Kingdom finances in this life-changing ministry. We will keep our end of the deal by providing good stewardship over every dollar that is given and attaining the maximum impact for all of Israel.

Looking Ahead

Many people within His body today are preparing for the return of our Messiah. Some believe that our natural circumstances will soon be deteriorating and that it is time to head to our caves. Others are attempting to be His bride and are busily cleaning their garments.

While those prophetic perspectives are interesting, the MIA is busy proclaiming the truth about all of Israel and serving His people through building up shepherds and connecting his people to each other and to the land of Israel, while offering encouraging support for the journey ahead. Instead of hiding out or being passive we are actively on the front lines offering direction and encouraging support for the journey ahead.

Our goals for this year are:

- [Establish B'nai Ephraim \(the initial steps towards Ephraim's nationhood\)](#)
- [Host our international conference](#)
- [Revitalize our Advisory Council](#)
- [Establish the MIA Development Center](#)
- [Maximize our Internet presence](#)
- [Conduct four regional conferences](#)
- [Expand our international reach](#)

Over the next several months we plan to host conferences in Orlando, Dallas, Nashville, Portland, and Salt Lake City. Each of these events will have a special focus and emphasis, but all will be pointed towards gathering His people and encouraging them along their path to Zion. We will bring our usual cast of solid teachers and awesome worship leaders. Stay tuned to our website for the dates and times of these conferences and then please come and attend at least one of these events.

There are other ongoing projects we are involved with as well. Our online presence continues to expand, and we will soon be launching Digital Bema, a streaming distribution platform for video and audio content. Our goal is to make this the largest collection of Messianic teachings and music available via online distribution. Working with several cutting-edge teachers and worship leaders, Digital Bema will allow you to grow in your walk right from your living room! More information on Digital Bema will be forthcoming.

CONTINUED ON BACK