

# Grace and Truth

## Mar-Apr 2019



... AND APPOINT ELDERS IN EVERY TOWN AS I DIRECTED YOU,  
IF ANYONE IS ABOVE REPROACH (Titus 1:5-6 ESV).

### ORDINATION OF BRIAN KINZEL AS AN ELDER AT GRACE AND TRUTH

One of the great joys of any pastor and minister of the gospel is to see the name of Christ glorified and his kingdom advanced. When you see the transforming power of the gospel in people's lives in their conversion, it

encourages and strengthens you. Currently we have two new candidates for baptism, and we hope that more will be added. Another great joy that we as a church experienced in the last month was to ordain Brian Kinzel as an elder in our church. Eitan Kashtan was the last elder we ordained and that was back in 2006. So it is a great time of rejoicing.

Brian comes to us with a wealth of experience in ministry and church life. He and his family have been a great addition and blessing to our church since they moved to Israel in 2015. Brian finished his M.Div degree at *The Master's Seminary* in 1992 and then was sent to Ukraine by *Grace Community Church* to join the faculty at *Irpin Biblical Seminary* to help develop a seminary for training pastors. After studying Russian, Brian began teaching in 1994, specializing in Hebrew. He taught courses such as: Certificate of Pastoral Ministry, Bachelor of Theology, and M.Div. All of these programs focus on academic disciplines needed for the exposition of Scripture. In 1995, Brian was also invited by *The Baptist Union of Ukraine* to start *Kyiv Theological Seminary* to provide training for pastors. Since then, Brian has completed his Th.M. at *The Master's Seminary* in 2004, and currently is studying for his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible at *Bar Ilan University* in Israel.

### A FEW WORDS FROM BRIAN KINZEL

We first got to know G&T in 2013 and 2014 when we met David and Eitan. Although we had never met before, we discovered that we had many, many mutual friends — this made it natural for us to trust each other because we believed the same. What we noticed about the church was that even though it is an Israeli congregation, people of all different backgrounds are welcomed, especially the Russian speakers! As I got to know both of these men and meet their families, I said to myself, "These are men of integrity who I would be happy to submit to and help." What I noticed about the leaders of the congregation

was that they all really seemed to be personally concerned about us. When we began to plan to move here we had many practical questions, so I had to ask them for help. We also met Andy Hubert, who was part of the deacons' committee. Andy and his wife Sarah helped us more than anyone else in our move here. They really exemplify the spirit of love and service in the congregation.



Since we are not Israelis, and do not plan to immigrate here, we never planned to serve as official leaders. That did not bother us because our goal was to support and help—and that does not require any special authority. So we were very surprised when Pastor David asked if we were willing to serve as an elder. In general, I see this role as a responsibility. Before I was installed, the elders had already given me much freedom to teach and lead. In a sense, I felt they wanted to make me an elder so that I would also be more accountable to them. As an elder, my goal always must be to be low, to be humble, and to remember that the Lord Jesus washed feet and suffered for those who followed him. I have many fears as we begin this new path. In our past experience we have learned that to lead a local congregation means difficulty, so I fear that we can lose the joy of our salvation in the midst of problems. I also remember that the Apostle Paul feared that he might be found unworthy (1 Cor. 9:27), and I have been taught that this is a healthy fear that I must cultivate in my heart daily. But I also know that this will give me more opportunities to support the elders and deacons because now, I will be more involved with the practical matters of the congregation. Above all, Heidi and I want to live a life that reflects both the truth of God's Word, and the love of the Lord Jesus.

### FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL...



### EDDIE ON A MISSIONARY TRIP TO UKRAINE

In March, Eddie Golder, our evangelist, and two other brothers from Poland, went for a two-week missionary trip to evangelize among the Jews in towns and villages in Ukraine. Every day they covered 250-300 km to reach the remote areas with Jewish communities. They shared the gospel with people in synagogues, served in soup kitchens, and visited the sick and needy in hospitals and homes. Most of the time, they felt welcome and received positive responses from the hearers, although on a few occasions, people argued and opposed them and the gospel.

Here is a summary of the first five days of the journey in Ukraine from Eddie's notes.

#### DAY 1 – City: Vinnytsia

Visiting Jews in the synagogue during Kabbalat Shabat.

It's been a good and lively fellowship where I shared about the meaning of Sabbath and of the upcoming Jewish feasts. There were many questions which we tried to answer.

#### DAY 2 – City: Vinnytsia

Visited sick and elderly at the hospital in Vinnytsia and three more bedridden people to whom we testified of

Christ and of the way of salvation.

### **DAY 3 – Town: Zhmerynka**

We visited Emma, who is running a soup kitchen for local Jewish people. She has heard about God and Jesus before and confessed that she believes intellectually, but her heart cannot accept the faith yet. We prayed for her, that God will open her heart and grant her faith to believe.

After that, we went to the soup kitchen where some 50 people gathered for lunch. We had the chance to share with them about the upcoming Passover and explain who became the perfect sacrifice to atone for man's sin. We had a good conversation with the people, and they asked many questions.

### **DAY 4 – Town: Bratslav**

During the Second World War in the town of Bratslav, there used to be a concentration camp. We had a chance to visit there and another soup kitchen and visited five families. Some of their elderly members survived the camp as children. We told them about God's love and that he kept them alive despite the circumstances. We also visited the Holocaust museum in the town accompanied by the coordinator of the Jewish community in the town.

### **DAY 5 – Town: Tulchyn**

There used to be a concentration camp "Pechora" near Tulchyn. We visited the camp on the Memorial Day dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camp. After that, we visited eight people who had survived the camp as children. We shared with them about God's grace to anyone who turns to him.

This was an intensive, yet very blessed trip where hundreds of Jewish people heard the good news, and a few who gave their lives to Jesus.

## NATIONAL PASTORS' COMMITTEE



### **GRACE AND TRUTH BUILDING SERVES THE BODY OF CHRIST IN ISRAEL**

On Friday 29th of March we held the National Pastors' Committee in our congregation. Some 65 pastors and elders from 47 congregations were present at the meeting.

While in Israel we don't have denominations as in some other countries, yet for many years now we have the "National Conference" of pastors and elders in Israel. In 1990 the NC adopted a short but conservative statement of faith that was accepted by the majority of the congregations. Since then, it has been the foundation used to invite congregations to become a part of it. Also, there have been churches that were excluded from the fellowship because they could not subscribe to its principles.

Last April, Pastor David Zadok was voted to be on the board of the NC. The board is responsible to set the agenda for the meetings and choose the subject, speaker and the place where the meeting will be held. It is indeed an important gathering

particularly in a small country like Israel with a very small Jewish Christian population and many challenges. It is an opportunity to sharpen and encourage each other and to discuss common issues and challenges that we face as a body.

One of the main issues that the committee is currently dealing with is some unorthodox teaching and false teachings that are creeping into the churches.

One such belief is called the "Wider/Narrow Hope." It teaches that Jewish people, if they have genuine faith in the One true God of the Old Testament and the coming of the Messiah, even though they don't implicitly

believe in Jesus, they can be saved! This is certainly very clearly against the teaching of the New Testament and of course the words of Jesus in John 14:6 **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** (ESV)

The other teaching is that of a Korean pastor by the name of Jaerock Lee. He has been running the Manmin Central Church in Seoul for many years, and the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Seoul ex-communicated him as a false teacher years ago. As of now some 40 churches in Israel are funded by him and his church or are associated with his ministry. Among other teachings, he believes that he is sinless! Ironically, he was recently indicted in the Korean court system for eight cases of sexual assault and is in prison serving his sentence.

The last but not least is the "New Apostolic Reformation" known as NAR. This is the view that the office of Apostles and Prophets, as existed in the New Testament era, is still functioning, and the "Christian Church" at large needs to "align" itself behind the "Apostles" in Jerusalem as found in Acts Chapter 15. This view, like many other movements, has been nuanced in different places with some variation.

Please pray for the church in Israel and the many opportunities it has to preach the gospel, but also for the many challenges that it is facing. We have to make sure that we keep our churches pure and clean from false teachings and false gospels.



## SHALOM ALIECHEM!

### WORSHIP BAND FROM THE USA SINGS AND PLAYS TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Jim Melnick has been a good friend of David and Grace and Truth

for many years. Among other titles, Jim is currently the International Coordinator of the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE) and is president and founder of Friends of Russian Jewry, Inc., a ministry arm of Life in Messiah to Russian Jews.

In his spare time, he is also a professional violinist and plays Jewish folk music and Christian worship songs in a band. Together with Jose Jimenez (vocals, guitar), and Bonnie Pearson (vocals), the trio suggested holding a concert for Holocaust survivors at Grace and Truth building while visiting Israel.

So on March 1st, about 100 Holocaust survivors attended the concert at our building. The program included Jewish well-known songs, such as: *Hevenu Shalom Aleichem*, *Ani ve Ata*, *HaTikva* and also Christian-Messianic worship songs. The audience seemed to be very much drawn into the performance and applauded during the whole concert.

Jim shared some personal testimonies and included Bible verse readings in between the musical numbers. The audience was moved and listened carefully. At the end of this joyful concert, Pastor David Zadok shared with the guests from Philippians 5 about the joy that everyone who believes in Christ may have.

**For information on how you may support our ministries, please contact us at:**

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