



HAGEFEN PUBLISHING

Newsletter, January-March 2019



National Election Approaching



In a month we will have our national election day. As the Lord has put the sword in the hands of governing authorities (Romans 13:1–7), it is important for us not only to obey them, but to use our national rights in choosing those who will have authority over us in the civil realm. For this reason, I thought it would be important to give an update of the situation.

On April 9th as Israelis go to vote, it will be a day of celebration as we will have our democratic government and parliament elections. As you can imagine, there is much tension these days plus a lot of propaganda coming from various party members and the two main candidates for prime minister. In the upcoming election, there are 44 parties who will try to win seats in the 21st parliament elections. This is the largest number of parties standing for election since our first elections in January of 1949.

However, the challenge of this election is not the large number of parties, nor the logistic difficulties that it has created for the election committee. There are two main parties and therefore two candidates who are running for prime minister. Our acting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has held this position for about ten years, is now under investigation. After a long investigative process by the police in five different cases, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, has agreed with the police recommendation to indict the ruling prime minister for three cases of bribery, breach of trust and fraud. Throughout the long investigation by the police and the final decision of Mandelblit, Netanyahu has used many tactics to fight against his indictment, including accusing the media and left parties and even the attorney general and the chief of police in being biased. While the Likud Party, the prime ministers' right wing party, has lost a bit of its popularity, it is still strong. There is a possibility that we will have Netanyahu as prime minister after all, and at the same time he will be

fighting his cases in our justice system. As you can imagine, that would be a real challenge for our judicial system to handle, although we have had both a president and a prime minister before who have sat in prison. However, we have never had an indictment against a ruling prime minister.

The party that poses a real challenge for the ruling party is Blue and White, which was formed just recently. Three of the top four leaders of the party have been chiefs of staff of Israel defense forces, and the fourth one, Yair Lapid, is the head of the "Yesh Atid," who has served in previous governments. However, Benny Gantz, who is the head of the Blue and White Party, has no civil experience. Some think that it would be a challenge for him, with no political experience, to jump straight into the prime minister's chair.



Yair Lapid

Benjamin Netanyahu

Benny Gantz

Whatever our political views, we need to earnestly pray as we are commanded, for the upcoming challenging elections and their results. We want the sword to be given into the right hands. Those that will protect our rights and that of the nation, and those that will also maintain and protect our religious freedom and rights.

Our Financial Situation & New Opportunities

In our December newsletter, we wrote about the 40% budget cut from CWI that we are facing. We are still coping with the cut and are hoping that through the generous support of people like yourselves, we will be able to finish the year well.



In light of these challenges that we shared in our last newsletter, HaGefen is in the process of launching a new initiative to take advantage of modern technology and various social media platforms. In order to reach a wider number of people, the vision is to provide online teaching through sermons and other training material in Hebrew and provide solid biblical teaching and instruction. The goal is to add Hebrew subtitles to many of the teachings of godly men who are available on the web. Some initial negotiations

have already been made by some of the publishers and seminaries in order to advance the plan, including Ligonier Ministries. We hope to have our first materials available by early next year. Please pray for wisdom as we calculate the steps that we need to take in order to move forward with this God given opportunity.

D. Min studies at TMS and G3 Conference

As part of the preparation for a new era in the ministry of HaGefen and the church in Israel, I have started an online D. Min studies in expository preaching at The Master's Seminary. I feel the need to equip myself further in order to be more effective in the task laid before us, but also to be able to train some of the young men in our circle of influence.

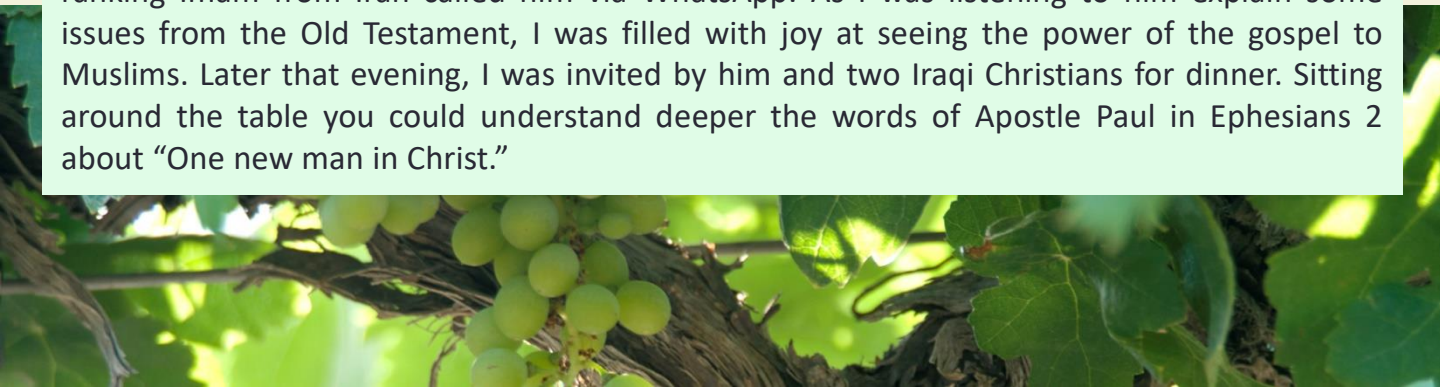
While in the US for my studies, I attended the G3 conference in Atlanta, by the invitation of Paul Washer from HeartCry Missionary Society. At the conference, HaGefen set up a table with HeartCry. I was able to talk with many who stopped by, often because of having Paul at our table, or seeing his picture with mine on the banner at our table. I am thankful to Brother Paul for his support of our ministry (and for mentioning HaGefen's ministry from the pulpit!), and many who stopped by to hear about our work. Many signed up to receive our newsletters. It was a blessing to meet new people and to get to know many wonderful ministries.



The Power of Salvation to the Jew First and Also to Muslims

In January, while in Los Angeles, I had the privilege of teaching two Bible studies to a group of Farsi speaking believers and non-believers, many of whom came from a Muslim background. My cousin, who has translated our Farsi material, translated my words into Farsi. Although I can speak Farsi, teaching the Bible is a different story! Afterwards there was an opportunity to share with the group individually, which was a blessing.

While in San Diego, I met an Imam from the Emirates, who has done some of his Sharia studies in Iran. He is now a converted Christian. I had met him once before through a mutual friend and was able to share much from the Old Testament. This helped him see the Jewish and the Old Testament roots of the Christian faith. While we were studying, a high-ranking Imam from Iran called him via WhatsApp. As I was listening to him explain some issues from the Old Testament, I was filled with joy at seeing the power of the gospel to Muslims. Later that evening, I was invited by him and two Iraqi Christians for dinner. Sitting around the table you could understand deeper the words of Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2 about "One new man in Christ."



Books for Soldiers

Every Purim the Grace and Truth congregation sends Purim packages to all the Messianic soldiers serving their active duty. This year, HaGefen provided two books to each of the 250 soldiers. The two books for this year are *Enter the Rest*, an Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews, showing the supremacy of Christ overall, the new covenant and the priesthood. Israel Harel, the writer, is a conservative Israeli pastor. The second book is called *Tell Me the Story* by Alex MacDonald, published by Christian Focus in Scotland. The book retells the story of Christ from the gospels through eye witnesses. We believe that the book will strengthen the faith of the believing soldiers as they read more about the events that happened in the gospels.



Update on EBook project

We continue to make progress with our EBook project as we are in the process of converting more of our books. The contract with a secular company has given us a wider exposure to readers that in the past we did not have access to them, as the main venue to reach our books

was mainly via our website. Right now we have five books EBook format available in various on-line shops: *Numbers*, *Homeward Bound* by Martin Pakula, *Enter the Rest* by Israel Harel, *The Holy War*, by John Bunyan, *The Last Jew of Rotterdam*, by Ernest Cassuto, and *Once an Arafat Man*, by Tass Saada. In addition, we just opened the HaGefen Instagram account: hagefen_publishing. Please follow us!

Many blessings to you all in Christ, David Zadok

Praise God:

- For the Gospel that changes the hearts of people from Muslim background.
- For the new projects and initiatives that expand HaGefen's ministry.

Pray:

- For the upcoming elections for Israeli Parliament.
- For the financial situation of HaGefen.

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