

Ami update July 23,2008

We've been blessed by a visit from a good friend of ours, Tim Arthur, who along with his wife Esther have been an "uncle and aunt" to our children for many years, They love our children like their own and have had significant spiritual input into their lives, as well as imparting emotional stability. When they lived in Brooklyn, several of our kids lived with them when they worked in our congregation in the States for the summer. Our daughter lived with them for 7 months one year when she worked there.

We are grateful to have Tim with us for the days he can take from his schedule and family. His visit is having an extremely comforting affect on the family.

Tim gave me a good word - he said that he's been learning to take one day at a time, and to leave behind all anxiety of the future, even when we have no idea what is happening. I realized that I am anxious concerning just about everything that has to do with Ami, and it's exhausting!! Even when I see my son suffer, I need to immediately go into action with Philippians 4:6 :

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Not that it is about me, but as his caregiver I need to be able to help Ami and not become part of the problem.

Your prayers for the police investigation are reaping rapid results. Those who saw the Channel one report and wrote to Avi Dichter, and those who have contacted their embassies, have put significant pressure on the authorities. The AP article, Jay Sekulow's visit to Dichter's office and his follow up calls, have

worked to put pressure on the police to act. They realize that this is not a local, but an international case, and the wheels are beginning to turn now.

The police called us to come in to talk. Our criminal lawyer, Yossi, was out of the country, but Caleb Myers, a believing lawyer who is the founder of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice, said that he wanted to come with us to feel out the atmosphere. He cancelled his appointments in order to be with us during the investigation.

The investigator told us that they wanted us to go over the incident, and to think over the year before it occurred, to try to come up with any information we might have missed. They wanted names and telephone numbers of people that might have information, or even were mildly suspicious, like people that might have come to our congregation for a time and then stopped coming. Unfortunately, we understood clearly that this drastic change of attitude was not because they particularly want to help us as Messianic Jews, but they need to save themselves from all the bad press. They had really done their homework concerning Messianic Judaism, and were careful not to offend us in their speech by calling us a cult. In hindsight, I realize also that they don't want to be guilty of any prejudice against Messianic Jews, as this has been brought up in many of the letters that believers have sent to the authorities here.

We received a communication from the mayor of Ariel in which he let us know that he has been in contact with the police urging them to make public their progress on the case because as he put it, many evangelical organizations (which support Ariel) are pressuring him to pressure the police to solve the crime, and it is affecting the relationship between these friends of Israel and the Israel they support.

A day later, one of the people that David wrote about in his update, who came forward to give testimony was contacted by the

police and questioned.

All we can say is thank you for the effort you have all taken to stand with us and the Messianic community in Israel. The prayer, letters and practical help are truly causing cracks in the big stone slab that will eventually bring the perpetrators to justice.

Thank you also for loving Ami and for continuing to pray him to health. Ami is always progressing, yet he still suffers in many ways. He has multiple injuries, and sometimes what he has to do in order to help one of his injuries has a negative affect on another injury! I'd have to say that he's really tired, but at the same time he needs to be taking more and more responsibility for his recovery. Please pray for him in this way, and please pray for wisdom for us, his caretakers to not do for him what he can begin to do for himself.

My oldest son Aaron, bless his heart, has been staying with Ami for two weeks now at the hospital. Natan, two down from Aaron, came up from Eilat (on the southern tip of Israel where he's been working), for a few days, and he will relieve Aaron for at least a day. My daughter, married and mother to a 4 month old boy, lives just 10 minutes from the hospital, and cooks for Ami and whoever is caring for him, every day. She and her husband make cakes and delicious meals which is a relief from hospital food!

Two other sons, Ariel who is a dog trainer with a busy schedule, and Elad who is in the army, also visit every moment they can. The hospital staff said that the family has pulled together in a way that impresses them all, praise the Lord. It is by His grace alone and by the support of the Body that we still stand.

Please continue to press in in prayer for a break in the case.

Please pray for Ami and his brothers and sister to hear from the Lord.

Please pray for strength for us all to continue to fight the good fight against the enemy.

Please pray for this case to bring the name of Yeshua to the forefront in Israeli society.

Please pray for the believers in Arad who suffer heavy persecution from the ultra orthodox. You can see a very good video on YouTube about them - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqMDi9V9qNU>

Please pray for the believers in Beersheva who are also persecuted by the Orthodox community there.

Please pray for believers around the country who are harassed, are having their businesses attacked, are losing jobs because of their faith, whose congregations have been vandalized and burned, and whose faces appear on fliers warning the inhabitants of their towns and cities to stay away from them. These fliers were also distributed in Ariel. Names and addresses are added to our pictures, and the messages all say the same thing – beware of the people who masquerade as Jews and belong to the cult called "Messianic Judaism".

A believer from Arad emailed me to say she is committing to pray for the investigation. Here is a sentence I wrote back to her:

We told the police a few days ago, when they said there's no connection between us and other instances of persecution, that there are many connections, one of them being that because these kind of people are having their way, using violence and arson in other places such as Arad, Beersheva, Jerusalem, etc, against Messianic Jews with the police doing nothing about it, the people that tried to kill our son had confidence that they could do what they did and the police would also do nothing. Justice will come when the Lord returns. In the meantime may He find us obedient to His will and with faith. (Luke 18:8)

Yours in the Messiah,

Leah