

**LightBeacon Ministry & Services, Inc.**  
**Dr. Benjamin H. Cassutto & Mrs. Elizabeth A. Cassutto**  
**P.O. Box 1445, Millsboro, Delaware 19966**  
**e-mail: [shalomfriend@hotmail.com](mailto:shalomfriend@hotmail.com)**

## Summer 2005 Newsletter

Well, I can't believe that it has been a year already that George my brother and I went to Eretz Yisrael. I don't think I can really top last summer's newsletter about our trip, but I will try. Our Ministry is really flourishing and later on I will give an update. But amazingly, one thing that really stands out to Liz and I as a milestone for this summer, is that we as a family have FINALLY become members of *Son of David Messianic-Jewish Congregation*. In fact, we've been a part of S.O.D.C. (abbreviated) for many years, and were always listed on their Congregational Directory as under the section of congregants who "have or are moving" ha ha. I've always felt like Tevye in "*Fiddler on the Roof*" when he said "*the reason we Jews keep our hats on, is we are always moving*". Jobs and professional situations necessitated moves over the years, and yet we continued to travel back to Rockville, MD to worship with our Jewish and non-Jewish brothers and sisters in Yeshua (Jesus), on the Shabbat (Saturday) service. Until recently, we were unable (time-wise) to observe the membership classes ('Visions and Values). In the words of Scott Brown, S.O.D.C.'s Congregational leader, "*I truly feel like I've come home*". So you may say, big deal, what does it matter that you're a member. Well, it is important because Liz and I, as part of this ministry which professes Messianic Judaism, it is important to be connected to your spiritual roots. Shortly, I will get into the basis of this article and what that means. But if we truly profess to be Messianic Jews, well then the proof is in the pudding, and we must eventually align ourselves as such. After all, the Bible (Old Testament) was written by "Messianic Jews" (Jews who believed on the Messiah), and the New Testament was written by Messianic Jews, who all pointed to the King of the Jews: Jesus Christ (or His Aramaic-Hebrew name): Yeshua.

So, what does that mean, to say in these days that you are a "*Messianic Jew*"? Why not just say that you are a Christian just like the rest of the body of Christ or as we call him, Yeshua? And why does Messianic Judaism even exist. Are you as believers in Jesus trying to exclude and separate yourselves from the rest of the body of believers? Well, in the last few months we have been to some classes and listened to some information taught by Messianic leader Scott Brown, and now I can truly say that I can much more confidently answer these questions. As Jewish believers in Yeshua we have a theological (Romans 1:16), missiological (Matthew 27:18-19) and ecclesiastical reason (Romans 11:5) for our existence. And this not meant to separate ourselves from the rest of the body of believers, but to fulfill the call that God has in these last days to bring the good news of salvation to the Jewish people. According to the Apostle Paul (Shaul) there will always be a remnant of Jewish people with the knowledge of the Gospel, saved by grace (but for the last two centuries there has been no way for Jewish people worship the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, in a cultural and normative Jewish way. My parents became believers in Yeshua during the WW2 era and when they did so they were immediately assimilated into the Christian church. Well, what's wrong with that, you may ask? Well, it was fine for them at that time, but I think if my parents were alive today and were given a choice, they would have preferred worshipping in a JEWISH context. As I learned this month, the cultural closure principle dictates that Jewish people by and large when they begin seeking spiritual things, tend to hearken back to normative JEWISH behaviors. Take my Uncle Henri Rodrigues as an example. For 30 years after his Holocaust experiences he was a devout atheist, asking the question, "if there is a God, where was he when six million Jews were being slaughtered?" Then after my mother passed away in 1985 he had a spiritual re-awakening. What did he do? He started attending synagogue and eventually had his Bar Mitzvah which he was denied during the war. Why, because my mother and Uncle when growing up WERE devout Jews living in Amsterdam, Holland, attending the synagogue and performing normative Jewish behaviors such as celebrating the holidays and Sabbath. Isn't it amazing that after 30 years this is what my Uncle remembered? This is something that I would like our readers in the churches to keep in mind when they are witnessing to Jewish people that do not even confess to be observant Jews. That if we do reach them spiritually and start asking questions, they may feel intimidated and loose interest if they are not made aware of an option for worship that make them aligns them with their own "cultural bed" so to speak. That is another reason why I call myself a Messianic Jew. So that when I have the opportunity to speak to a Jewish brother, we have a cultural basis for which to connect.

As I learned this month, it is called "the Dodge Ram principle". Two men have Dodge Ram Pick-up trucks parked next to each other, when they get to their respective vehicles they start talking to each other about how wonderful they are. They would never have engaged in conversation except for the commonality in their experiences. But then the one owner of the Dodge Ram notices that the other has made some improvements to the chassis, tires, ect. He starts asking him about these differences. So when I invite my Jewish neighbor to a Messianic Passover Seder or even Shabbat at my house, he starts asking me, its great that you celebrated Passover or Shabbat and I honor that but what are all these

references to "Yeshua"? That creates an opportunity for WITNESSING! Now, there are many non-Jewish believers in Yeshua who have made a personal and spiritual decision to worship in a Messianic Jewish Congregation in a culturally Jewish way. So, am I saying that everyone should worship this way? Well, that is a decision that is between each believer and God. But what I am saying is, if you are a non-Jewish believer and have a heart for witnessing to the Jewish people, start becoming familiar with some simple Jewish customs and Holidays (Passover, Feast of Tabernacles, Celebrating the Jewish Sabbath) that can easily have the Good News of Yeshua instilled in their worship. Then when you invite your Jewish neighbor to them, he will at the least feel comfortable or at the most honored with your presentation, but he will eventually want to know about the differences. That is your opportunity to share the good news of salvation with him or her. And lastly, be aware that if the Jewish person truly is seeking to learn more about who Yeshua is, that there are Messianic Congregations that he or she can go to now, that will allow them to worship in a cultural framework that makes them feel like they have come home! Shalom.

### Ministry Update:

- **NOW COMING SOON TO LIGHTBEACON MINISTRIES- ON LINE ORDERING!** If you are interested in ordering copies of "[The Last Jew or Rotterdam](#)" or "[Buried Treasure](#)", you can now order them online over a secure site. Just click on the link for each book. Also please allow 7-10 days for shipping. Also check out our Ministries partners' page and updated links section on our page.
- **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTs:** Liz and I will be ministering on August 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the **Women's Aglow of Easton, Maryland**, about sharing the good news of Yeshua to your Jewish neighbor. Please join us for a wonderful time of praise and worship, fellowship and teaching. Call us at 302-732-9819 or e-mail us a [shalomfriend@hotmail.com](mailto:shalomfriend@hotmail.com) for further Information.
- **'THE LAST JEW OF ROTTERDAM' is now in DUTCH!** - Now the thrilling and true story of Ernest and Elizabeth Cassutto and how they survived the Holocaust only to become believers in Yeshua has been published in Dutch. A Dutch Christian publishing company Importantia, has translated the work. If you would like a copy of the book in Dutch go to [https://shop.importantia.com/shop/kassa\\_ned\\_aantal.php](https://shop.importantia.com/shop/kassa_ned_aantal.php).

**Finally!** As of July, 2005, we will have an Administrative Assistant (part-time) at **LightBeacon Ministries**. **"Theresa" is a wonderful Christian who has a tremendous background, and we feel fortunate to have met her.** Theresa and her family are very involved in ministry, in fact, her family recently returned to the States from Albania, where they served as missionaries for several years. Theresa's professional background is extensive (legal secretary and Assistant to a Judge), as well as her ministry background. Liz is '*absolutely thrilled*', to say the least, to have met Theresa.

I am sure all of you reading this feel the same way; trying to "juggle time" in today's world is a real challenge. For Liz personally, with her job (at an Assisted Living Facility), and running to Salisbury, MD to help out at our new Animal Hospital we opened in January, as well as care of the house, pets (one with a recent surgery), do festivals and trade shows, see to ministry needs, as well as take care of the various (writing projects); it was too much for one person. We both see Theresa's coming on board as God's divine timing for this ministry. For the last 4 years, much of what the Lord has wanted to bring us into, has been on-hold, as we realized we were just plain tired, and couldn't address some of the needs and challenges that come with a growing business and ministry, all by ourselves. We have family in 2 States we travel to see, and are on the highway 2 times a month traveling to Rockville, MD. (outside D.C.) to be involved with our Messianic Congregation there, and our home church in Salisbury, MD. It's just been a whirlwind, and our health has paid for it. Now, PTL, the Lord has blessed us with top-rate secretarial help, and we are very grateful. Praise the Lord.

We send you our sincerest "Shalom" that the Lord will indeed "*Bless You and Keep You, Make His Face Shine Upon You, and Be Gracious Unto You, May the Lord Lift Up His Countenance and Give you His Peace (shalom)*" (Numbers 3: ) We hope and pray you have a safe and happy summer season. – Sincerely,

Ben & Liz Cassutto,  
**LightBeacon Ministries & Services, Inc**