

Maoz Israel – Prayer letter - December 4, 2018

Dear Maoz Partner,

I could not wait until Wednesday to send you this prayer letter, because of the dramatic news Israelis woke up to this morning of an extensive IDF operation on our northern border.

It was sometime in 2013, when an Israeli woman living close to the border with Lebanon began complaining of strange earthquake-like underground shaking, and what sounded like drilling noises. Soon after, more and more people began reporting similar occurrences. Some even documented cement trucks going into greenhouses on the Lebanese side, and after a long time emerging full of rocks.

Though for a while the IDF seemed to dismiss these reports, each time citing a different explanation, we now know that since early 2014, a special IDF force has been developing technology that allows the location of underground tunnels in the northern region. (In Gaza in the south, the soil is very different and much softer, so a different technology is needed to both dig the tunnels in the north and detect them.)

Very early this morning, large numbers of IDF forces involving heavy machinery streamed to various regions of the border with Lebanon. There, special teams began working on detection and destruction of tunnels on Israel's side of the border. And so, *Operation Northern Shield* has begun.

The Metula region in northern Golan Heights has been declared a closed military zone. However, the IDF instructed the citizens to continue their routine. Several northern municipalities announced they were checking the readiness of bomb shelters in their towns.

We don't know how long this operation will take. We don't know how many tunnels will be exposed on our side of the border. Most importantly, we don't know how Hezbollah will react to this operation as terror tunnels they have been preparing for several years are being destroyed.

Naturally, not much information about *Northern Shield* is being made public. No one from the Cabinet is even being allowed to interview. Someone said on the radio this morning, that we will probably only hear from the IDF when a terror tunnel is located and destroyed. That said, every Israeli understands that this is big, important, and dangerous.

As the IDF does what it does best--protects us from our enemies, and as we here at Maoz continue with our mission to bring the Gospel to all Israel, we ask that you please join us in prayer this week:

For the success of Operation Northern Shield. Pray for every terror tunnel that extends into Israel to be discovered and destroyed. Pray for protection for IDF soldiers and civilians involved in this operation. Pray that God will thwart Hezbollah from launching an attack on our northern towns. Pray for wisdom and courage for Israel's leaders and commanders in everything concerning this operation.

For protection of Israel. As Operation Northern Shield goes on full force, pray for protection of all our borders. Pray for protection from Iran—as it is the main supplier of Hezbollah's weapons and funding.

For internal stability in the Land. This week the police recommended that PM Netanyahu be charged with bribing a newspaper owner with financial benefits in return for favorable press coverage in what Israelis refer to as "case 4000." This may lead to several developments and much governmental instability, which Israel cannot afford at this time. Please pray for God's will to be done as we continue to pray that our leaders have pure hearts and clean hands.

For Ari, Shira, and our directors around the world. Pray for the Lord's blessing, health, and anointing to do the work He has ordained them to do.

For our worldwide staff.

For the "Narrated Bible in Chronological Order" project. Pray that this project remains on schedule, and that we receive the remaining funds needed to complete the translation. God has already been answering your prayers and ours about this project, as someone just recently committed to funding the first edition printing of 4,000 copies!

For Maoz Media. Pray for inspiration and the ability to present the Gospel in a way that will show the truth of who Yeshua is and how great His love is for the people of Israel. Pray for strategies to get our projects out to as many Hebrew-speakers as possible. Pray for the Lord to stir the hearts of those watching our content, leading them to His path.

For the Hebrew Books department. Here, too, the Lord has been answering our combined prayers. We have one more book on the list of current projects and another one under consideration. Pray for wisdom and guidance for every step, and pray for the Lord to remove all hurdles for the books He has already showed us we should translate and publish.

For Music Making for Kids mid-term exams. Program directors Tanya and Roman are administering mid-term exams to all 60 students in the program over the Hanukkah holiday. Please pray for these little musicians to excel in their talents.

For a new children's song to be recorded this week. We are about to record a brand new children's song as we begin working on the second children's album. Please pray for the children, as well as Tanya, sound engineers, and everyone else involved. Pray for a fruitful, Spirit-led recording. Pray for inspiring, spirit-filled songs that will build up our children's connection with the Lord and with our Messiah!

For the body of believers in Israel.

For Israeli Messianic believers persecuted for their faith.

For our Arab brothers and sisters in Messiah.

For the salvation of Israel.

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From Maoz UK: The Brexit negotiations have come to a crises point. This week the deal will be debated in Parliament and a vote will be taken next week. One of the greatest dangers will be the fall of the government. We must pray that this does not happen. One of Labour's first commitments if they come to power will be the recognition on the state of Palestine and, most probably, the end of diplomatic relations with Israel. Friends, we cannot let this happen.

Thank you for praying for Brian and Elizabeth's visit to Israel last week with a group of *Elim* leaders. It was very successful with nearly all of them on their first visit there. They were hugely impacted both by the land, which always speaks for itself, and by the various leaders and congregations they visited. This was not a one off visit, we are so grateful that nearly all of the churches represented want to make ongoing partnerships with Maoz projects and partners.

At the end of this week Maoz UK offices will be moving to the Sevenoaks area. Please pray for our move, particularly that the new PO Box will come through soon. In the meantime you can still send post to our old address until the end of December.

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It is Hanukkah—the Feast of Dedication—a festival of light celebrating miracles God performed for His people so that they could cleanse and re-dedicate the Temple in Jerusalem.

Each one of us is a living testimony of God's miracles, here with a purpose to carry God's light with us into the world.

Our ultimate calling—through our individual gifts—is to be vessels filled with the cleansing power of the blood of Yeshua and with the restoring power of the Holy Spirit. This power has no limits and no end, so when we are filled with it, it will overflow to those around us.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for praying for us. We bless you in the precious name of Messiah Yeshua.

We wish you a very blessed Hanukkah! Katy Smith For the Maoz Israel Ministries Team