

Dear Maoz Partner,

On Sunday the IDF announced that *Operation Northern Shield* has been completed. Overall, six terror tunnels that breached the border and extended into Israel were discovered and neutralized.

IDF officials also exposed the plans of Hezbollah and how they intended to use these tunnels. The scenario for the surprise attack was quite ambitious, as the intention was to simultaneously pour thousands of terrorists into Israel through the tunnels and take over the entire border region for an extensive period of time. After the initial infiltration, thousands more would come in, wreaking havoc and virtually paralyzing Israel's north.

Thanks be to God, that the plans of the wicked were made known, and, for now, they have come to nothing!

However, it is important to realize that Israel was only able to destroy tunnels that reached into our territory at this time, and, the IDF says Hezbollah is continuing to dig more tunnels, which have not yet reached us, and, therefore, cannot be destroyed. This means that even though (for now) *Northern Shield* has secured our border underground, a repeat operation will be required at some point.

The tension also continues on the border with Gaza, and there is unrest in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). Hamas continues to call the Palestinian people to an armed struggle, and the Palestinian Authority remains silent at this ongoing incitement against Israel.

In addition to all this, yesterday Israel welcomed the newly-appointed IDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi, who is now in charge of keeping this land safe from enemies near and far. He will hold this position for the next three years (four if his term is extended).

To end on a good note, Israel is preparing for more rain, and a possibility of snow in Jerusalem later today. As I wrote last week, these rains have brought a blessing, and the Sea of Galilee continues rising, already gaining over two feet this season. It is, however, still over 16 feet short of its top level, so the rain coming in today is more than welcome. And, of course, seeing Jerusalem clothed in white is very special each time it happens, so if it does, I will try to sneak in a photo in the next prayer letter.

I cannot say just how much we need and appreciate your continuous prayers for Israel and Maoz this week. Please join us in prayer:

For the upcoming elections. Continue to plead for God's mercy on Israel, and that He will grant us leaders who would follow His guidance and serve the people rather than themselves. Pray for the people of Israel to remain united even in the midst of political struggles.

For rain. Pray for an abundance of precipitation, but against flooding and destruction in populated areas and against loss of life due to rain, snow, or winds. When asking for your prayers, a verse comes to mind:
"The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it." (Proverbs 10:22)

For safety and security on Israel's borders. Pray that the northern border will remain secure, and that any and every tunnel Hezbollah continues to dig would be discovered and destroyed before it's operational.

Pray for the Lord to continue providing important intelligence information to our security forces so that they can stop planned terror attacks and keep us safe.

Pray for the new IDF Chief of Staff as he begins his new role. Pray for the Lord to lead and guide Him in every decision.

For Ari, Shira, and our directors around the world.

For our worldwide staff.

For healing for Yacov Damkani and Eddie Santoro. Yacov has returned home from rehabilitation center, and Elisheva, his wife, reported that he is doing better. Pray for the Lord to restore his body and mind, and make him a living testimony of His healing and miracles.

For the "Narrated Bible in Chronological Order" project. Please continue to pray for every stage of work on this book until it's completed. Miraculously, we have already raised over 80% of the funding needed for this project. Pray for the rest of the funds to come in.

For Maoz Media. There are several projects we are working on, and we ask that you pray for the Lord to give us more inspiration and new ideas of how to use media to reach multitudes of Israelis with the Gospel. We want to be effective in what we do, and complete every task He sets before us with excellence.

For the Hebrew Books department. We continue looking for more outstanding books we can translate into Hebrew and put in the hands of Israelis. Please pray for us to find the books that would have the greatest impact. Pray also for guidance regarding translating books for teenagers, as this area is quite lacking.

For Music Making for Kids program recitals coming up at the end of the month. Pray for the children to see their progress and be encouraged. Pray for God to speak to each child and reveal His future plans for them.

For the body of believers in Israel. Pray for unity among believers. Pray for more cooperation between various congregations in different fields. Pray for a revelation of what the Lord meant when He said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) May we be good and bold witnesses of God's love and mercy to our people!

For Israeli Messianic believers persecuted for their faith.

For our Arab brothers and sisters in Messiah.

For the salvation of Israel.

From Maoz UK: The UK is in Brexit chaos as the governments deal was heavily defeated in the commons but surviving a no-confidence vote on Wednesday. In reality things are quite straightforward. The UK voted to leave and Parliament legally agreed that the UK will leave the EU on 29 March, and so that should happen on WTO terms. However, many MP's and the majority of the UK media do not want to leave and so no deal is seen as a disaster. Please pray for the Lord's hand upon our nation. There is a day of prayer being organised by David Hathaway at the Wembley SSE arena on Saturday 26 January. If you cannot attend, try to make that a day of prayer for our nation where you are.

Please pray for Brian our UK Director. He hurt his back 2 weeks ago and it has not recovered. He is having trouble sitting and standing. Pray for a full recovery.

Please pray for our connection with churches. It is one of Maoz UK's key aims to make connections with churches to give opportunity for them to hear about God's purposes in Israel. In 2015 we made it our aim to have 100 connected churches within 5 years. We have now reached 60. Maybe your church would like a visit from Maoz?

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

The Maoz Israel Ministries Team