

~January 2026~

Calvary Fellowship Haifa/House of Hope Ministry Update

Winter is here and we are thankful for all of the rains we have had. This coming week is the holiday of Tu B'shvat (the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shvat) also known as the New Year of the trees. Biblically, it was the cutoff date for determining the age of a tree for tithing purposes, but about 150 years ago it transitioned to become a minor Jewish holiday observed by tree planting. Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in the number of trees compared to 100 years ago. Since 1901, over 250 million trees have been planted and today, trees cover approx. 8.5% of the land compared to 2% in 1948. This is the peak of our rainy season, preparing the soil for the trees to begin the new fruit bearing cycle. Please join with me in praying that even as the rains come down from heaven, the Lord would pour out His Holy Spirit on the land and people here and we would see an abundant harvest of souls this coming year.



Our country is rejoicing as a few days ago we returned the body of the last remaining hostage, Ran Gvili. This is the first time since 2014 that we no longer have hostages in Gaza. It is a strange thing to rejoice to receive a body back, but this is how our country feels about each one of our men and women who went off to fight. On the other hand, we cleaned our bomb shelters again and opened them back up in preparation for what might happen with Iran in the coming days. Despite possibly being on the verge of another war, very few people are talking about it. I guess we have just gotten so used to that being a part of our lives that we just figure that whatever is going to happen will happen and we will deal. Life goes on. We have had enemies for thousands of years and until the Messiah comes back, we will continue to have them.

January has been a busy month of ministry. I continue to teach through Genesis every other week up here in Haifa and Joshua has been teaching through James on the weeks in between. In addition, I have been teaching through 1st Samuel down in Tel Aviv every other week and teaching a discipleship class of 10 people after the service as well. Besides that class, I still have a number of other individual discipleships, both in person and online, and am enjoying pouring into peoples lives and watching the Holy Spirit bring healing. When I started teaching last year down in Tel Aviv, we never really looked ahead to see what that might look like, but this week Pastor John and I met and discussed the congregation and realized that without planning it, I have been co-pastoring. John and I work well together and the ministry really needs the extra help as it is right smack in the middle of a tough neighborhood of drug addicts and homeless. I am blessed that God has given me the privilege of what He is doing in these end days in the Land here. Besides the regular soup kitchen on Thursdays and the outreaches on Mondays, we started renting the facility next to the congregation and are hoping to move the soup kitchen to there and to do more outreaches from there. I think of how the Lord sent them out two by two and here in Israel, at least, often times we find ourselves trying to do a lot by ourselves.



Up in Haifa, I took a week to do a much needed painting job on the apartment and even had the couch cushions re-upholstered. Everything looks and feels refreshed and we continue to enjoy fellowship with a meal, a teaching followed by a time of prayer. We have a new person that I met at a tour guide day training. She is an Arab woman who sometimes attends an

Anglican church but feels really lost. She is also going to start discipleship with Sheri next week. It is really nice to see the people who I have been discipling start to disciple others. I know Ben, from Boston has also started to do discipleship out there as well.



At the beginning of the month, the pastors and wives who are affiliated with Calvary Chapel Israel met once again for a time of prayer and fellowship. We have been trying to get together every other month or so.

Dima and I also started a new fellowship up in Nahariyah this past month with his family and someone that I have been discipling that lives up there. We hope that in the future his family will attend and some others that Dima invited will come as well. It is nice to see the ministry expanding.

Joshua, Dima and I also attended a seminar on a bible study method called DBS (Discovery Bible Study). It was an interesting method that is very “user friendly” and duplicatable. I have already implemented it with my mother and another small group that I had been doing a bible study with in the past. It is really good for un-believers to draw them in because it is a non threatening way to discuss the bible. There is no teacher and no prep is needed.

This past week I attended an advanced learning day in Beit Shean and also in Jerusalem walking the Pilgrim’s road. On the 20th of January, it opened up for the first time in 2000 years after 20 years of extensive excavations. It is exciting to be able to walk this same path that hundreds of thousands of Jewish people walked in the past. Now I have to go back and redo many of the itineraries for the upcoming trips to try to figure out how to fit it into an already very busy schedule.

Tourism seems to be returning, at least on paper. Time will tell if it actually happens, but I have my first tour in February and then once again immediately after that I will fly back to the States for one week to see my parents and my boys. It will be the first time in a very very long time that we will all be together. My dad is hanging in there and continues doing dialysis 3 times a week. They got a nice caretaker that also comes three days a week so my mom can get out of the house. He is a Christian from Nigeria and my dad really likes him. Mattan is still in Arizona and Yaron is in Rhode Island. They are both trying to start a life for themselves. I continue to pray for Zahava who I haven’t heard from in years now.

Prayer requests:

- thanking God for the return of Ran Gvili and all of our hostages
- praying for guidance for our leaders as we face continued threats from Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas
- for the Haifa and Tel Aviv congregations to continue steadfastly in teaching the word, fellowshipping, and sharing the Gospel with the lost
- for guidance and blessings on the new Nahariyah fellowship
- for salvation for my children, my parents and for my entire family
- for those in discipleship, to continue to grow, produce fruit and to go on to make disciples
- for my own personal walk with the Lord to stay strong and vibrant and for the wisdom to take care of the flock that the Lord has entrusted into my care as I move into a new season with increased tour guiding, which is in of itself a ministry as well

I want to thank everyone who has supported us both prayerfully and financially. Many people have reached out and called or messaged just letting me know that you are praying for me, my family and our country and people. It has given me strength to continue during difficult times. We love to hear from you and it helps us to know how to pray for all you as well.

Donations for the congregation can be made on our website at CCHaifa.com or click here: [Donate](#). Please notice that the donations are in Shekels so you can do the conversion at the time of your donation. If you send through the website or at this paypal link, please designate if it is for any specific need. If it is not designated, it will go to the congregation as needed to take care of all of our expenses including donations to a variety of organizations in Israel including the pro-life org that we support monthly.

In addition, I want to thank those people who sent support to me personally through Zelle or my personal paypal. I haven't had much work as a tour guide since the war began. I hope that 2026 will be a better year. Your support is much appreciated. My **Zelle** account is connected to my email: Yeshayahu264@gmail.com My personal **paypal** is connected to my email:Yeshayahu2@yahoo.com

Blessings in the mighty name of our Lord Yeshua,
Yosef (Yossi) Goldberg