

September 24, 2022

Remembering Barry David Hoffman

We never experienced in our lifetime Barry proclaiming the words that Yeshua is Lord and Messiah and that he had put his trust in him. This is not the premise for what I am about to share about a man I have known for 12 years.

Barry was a husband 53 years and father.

This man who had a depth to him I had experienced with only a few others in my lifetime, yet I was only scratching the surface of who he was.

Barry served our nation as a USAF officer, A man who graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. He would receive the honorary designation of Professor Emeritus from National University of Science and Technology in Islamabad, Pakistan.

To share all that Barry was passionate about would take several pages, whether it be real estate, autographs or stamps.

Barry was passionate about many things one of which was his library of the Holocaust and his collection of Nazi propaganda postcards from the Third Reich that he would donate to Clark University. A legacy that will live on and continue to educate future generations about the tragedy that took six million of his brothers and sisters whereby on each Yom Hashoah we amplify "Never Again, Never Forget" Barry has done his part in preserving history.

What you will not see in his obituary and something I had discovered during our Sukkot celebration last year is that Barry was a spy for the federal government.

You also won't read but is known to this congregation is that Barry declared himself our unofficial advisor and would take on that mantle at every opportunity he could. Though not a believer in Messiah, he would attend services, onegs and the Moadim, including our Passover seders.

Each time our prayer was for Barry to come to an understanding of Messiah and embrace him in his heart. A heart that was so enormous in many ways. Many of you experienced his heart through his generosity. Both Jeri and I have experienced the exceptional person Barry David Hoffman was.

On Thursday (September 15th) I had contacted Lane after she had sent me an email wanting to talk and update me on Barry's condition. I won't go into the details of the email or the conversation, yet her prayer in that moment was for

Barry to have clarity where Lane would be able to share Messiah and He finally embrace Messiah.

That prayer was not answered in that Lane did not receive that opportunity with Barry.

Come Sunday morning in the wee hours around 3 am she was praying. She would send out texts to others seeing if they were still up and if they would pray with her. Jeri did not get a text but was woken up by the Ruach around that time and she began to pray. Their prayer was for Adonai to provide him one more opportunity to accept His Son.

My prayer later on in the day was simply "Lord, He is one of yours."

Throughout this entire time, Barry was being immersed in prayer, petitioning Adonai to appear before Barry. All who were praying were requesting a Divine Appointment on his behalf.

At 2:37 pm on Sunday September 18th, I heard the words I heard on October 10th @ 2:40 in 2007 when I was speaking to my father on the phone. This time I was on the phone with Lane when I heard her repeat the words my father would repeat from the hospice nurse (keeping in mind the gender is different, yet it was the same experience) "He's Gone"

As was the case 15 years ago, in hearing these words again, I was at peace. I could not explain it at the moment, simply because I had never heard a profession come from Barry's lips. Jeri too was at peace.

When we arrived at Hospice and met with Lane shortly after Barry's passing, she professed to having peace upon Barry's passing. Lane's married life with Barry was immersed in the hope that he would one day profess the same love of Messiah that she does. Yet, his lips did not offer her such hope. The need for a moment of clarity did not happen. An opportunity for one last chance to lead Barry to Messiah did not happen. Yet, Lane, Jeri and Myself had peace.

That Sunday, this passage came to my mind as we were talking, yet I had to go home and search for it and thus make certain it was what I was being impressed upon.

Php 4:6 Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving.

Php 4:7 Then God's shalom, passing all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua.

Lane did everything verse six asked of her and she ultimately received the

promise of verse 7.

Was Barry, still attached to his earthly body, brought into the presence of Adonai, seeing Him as Yeshua? Finally embracing Messiah as the sun would set on his 85 years on this earth? We do not have the reassurance of Barry's words professing his decision, yet we have the Shalom of Adonai as our confirmation.

Lane had made a request to us on the Tuesday morning of the internment for which we had decided not to attend after hearing it was going to be a family gathering. She had contacted me early Tuesday morning asking if we would be able to bring a friend of Barry's who wanted to attend. Jeri and I had agreed to attend and would pick up Barry's friend and take him to Salem, MA for the service. During the ride down, Jeff (Barry's friend) had made the comment for the first time about how well Lane was doing with the passing of Barry. He did not see what he was expecting. He could not comprehend what Lane was experiencing. He would make the same observation on at least two other occasions that I am aware of.

Shalom that passes all understanding.

On a side note, pray for Barry's friend Jeff, that Adonai continues to stir him and that Barry's passing be used to draw others to Messiah. Yes, Jeff is Jewish and not a believer in Messiah...YET!!!

Embrace what Sha'ul conveyed in his letter to Philippian believers when he was in prison...

Make your request known to Adonai. Be specific, be transparent in your prayers to Adonai. Of course He knows before you even ask. That isn't the point. He is wanting you to make your request known to Him.

Lane, I want to share this passage with you as a means to encourage you in what you will be doing on behalf of our Lord and Messiah come October 23rd at 1 pm when you memorialize Barry at Etz Chaim congregation in Portland.

You will be in front of a Jewish audience for which this opportunity to speak is not readily available.

I want you to consider Sha'ul's words when he was in prison

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Php 1:3 I thank my God every time I think of you.

Php 1:4 Whenever I pray for all of you I always pray with joy,

Php 1:5 because you have shared in proclaiming the Good News from the very first day until now.

Php 1:6 And I am sure of this: that the One who began a good work among you will keep it growing until it is completed on the Day of the Messiah Yeshua.

Php 1:7 It is right for me to think this way about you all, because I have you on my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and establishing the Good News, you are all sharing with me in this privileged work.

Php 1:8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the deep affection of the Messiah Yeshua.

Php 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may more and more overflow in fullness of knowledge and depth of discernment,

Php 1:10 so that you will be able to determine what is best and thus be pure and without blame for the Day of the Messiah,

Php 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Yeshua the Messiah—to the glory and praise of God.

The Advance of the Gospel

Php 1:12 Now, brothers, I want you to know that what has happened to me has helped in advancing the Good News.

Php 1:13 It has become clear to the whole palace and to everyone else that it is because of the Messiah that I am in chains.

Php 1:14 Also, my being in prison has given most of the brothers in the Lord confidence, so that they have become much more bold in speaking the word of God fearlessly.

Php 1:15 True, some are proclaiming the Messiah out of jealousy and rivalry, but others are doing it in goodwill.

Php 1:16 The latter act from love, aware that I am put where I am for defending the Good News;

Php 1:17 while the former announce the Messiah out of selfish ambition, with impure motives, supposing they can stir up trouble for me in prison.

To Live Is Messiah

Php 1:18 But so what? All that matters is that in every way, whether honestly or in pretense, the Messiah is being proclaimed; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

Php 1:19 for I know that this will work out for my deliverance, because of your prayers and the support I get from the Spirit of Yeshua the Messiah.

Php 1:20 It all accords with my earnest expectation and hope that I will have nothing to be ashamed of; but rather, now, as always, the Messiah will be honored by my body, whether it is alive or dead.

Php 1:21 For to me, life is the Messiah, and death is gain.

Php 1:22 But if by living on in the body I can do fruitful work, then I don't know which to choose.

Php 1:23 I am caught in a dilemma: my desire is to go off and be with the Messiah—that is better by far—

Php 1:24 but because of you, the greater need is to stay on in the body.

Php 1:25 Yes, I am convinced of this; so I know I will stay on with you in order to help you progress in the faith and have joy in it.

Php 1:26 Then, through my being with you again, you will have even greater reason for boasting about the Messiah Yeshua.

Php 1:27 Only conduct your lives in a way worthy of the Good News of the Messiah; so that whether I come and see you or I hear about you from a distance, you stand firm, united in spirit, fighting with one accord for the faith of the Good News,

Php 1:28 not frightened by anything the opposition does. This will be for them an indication that they are headed for destruction and you for deliverance. And this is from God;

Php 1:29 because for the Messiah's sake it has been granted to you not only to trust in him but also to suffer on his behalf,

Php 1:30 to fight the same battles you once saw me fight and now hear that I am still fighting.

Lane, know that your congregational family is with you and thus you are not alone. Whether we are there in person or in prayer, you will not be alone when you stand up and speak to this Jewish Audience. I am calling this opportunity Barry's final gift to you.

In honor of Barry, whose passing is our loss and Adonai's gain, let us all rise and take part in the Mourner's Kaddish.

It is not a prayer for the dead but one for us who still remain, mourning the loss of a loved one. Barry was most certainly a loved one of this congregational family.