

The Lord is Our Refuge

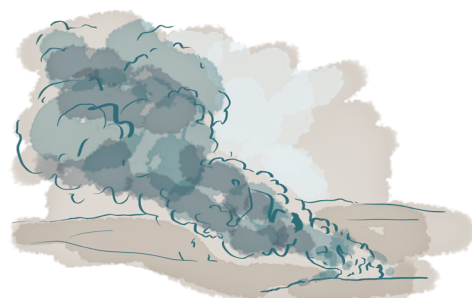


Dear

There are days in life when time slows down and you're truly present with your family, instances when you realize you're living in a moment you're always going to remember. *October 6th, 2023, was like that for me.* Our family spent the day at the beach; the sky was clear, the sun was warm, and we were all having a blast together. I was enjoying the break from work, the togetherness, and the fresh perspective a new horizon brings. We were in Ashdod, just a short drive from the border of Gaza. I drove home reveling in the afterglow of a perfect day, grateful we'd made the effort to get away, with a refreshed perspective on the beauty of my family and gratitude for the full life Elisa and I have.

By morning, our world was changed forever.

The next morning, we woke to vague reports of conflict, and our congregation gathering was canceled. As we took a family walk, rockets were intercepted overhead and the sirens began. We rushed to our bomb shelter, which has since become somewhat routine, as the horror of October 7th would become clear and full-scale war enveloped Israel.



The lurking antisemitism that never truly goes away had burst into clear view.

As we grappled with our new normal, the trauma began to take a toll—one of my children developed uncontrollable facial tics, a physical manifestation of processing shock and fear. The uncertainty of the first few months of war left each of us hyper-vigilant and emotionally raw, longing for the safety and security that war robs. We needed a refuge for our minds, our emotions—and our trauma. Beyond the professional counselor we connected our son with, in the deepest place, we needed Yeshua, the Prince of Peace.



The Lord is my refuge.

*Return to your rest, my soul, For the Lord has dealt generously with you.
For You have rescued my soul from death, My eyes from tears,
And my feet from stumbling.
Psalms 116:7-8 NASB*



As I've endeavored to allow the Lord to shepherd my own soul, my family, and HaTikva Project through these unprecedented days, He has often spoken these words to me, inviting me to return to the rest only possible in Yeshua. Rest in war, peace despite circumstances, and security in geopolitical upheaval are only possible in recognizing that the Lord alone gives peace, security, and provision.

The Lord is Israel's refuge.

Israel is still shaken from the impact of war, with recent studies suggesting that over three million adults now suffer from anxiety, depression, and PTSD. The trauma of October 7th has deeply affected the Jewish people—lost jobs and businesses and deteriorating mental health have left people shattered, some finding it difficult to rebuild or regain normalcy.

Israel has a refuge—her true protection and peace—the Lord God of Israel. HaTikva Project stands with the hurting in the midst of their pain, showing a compassionate witness of a compassionate God who sees them, cares for them, and alone can heal the trauma they have endured.

In response to this national trauma, HaTikva Project is committed to expanding our trauma counseling services. There is an urgent need for emotional healing and mental health support and a wide open door to lavish the hope and love of the Lord, the refuge of Israel.



Your witness to Israel.

Your monthly partnership of \$50, \$100, or \$300 makes it possible for HaTikva Project to provide trauma counseling for those reeling from the past year and a half, dental care, financial aid, and respite care and support for foster and adoptive families - all provided in Yeshua's name. Together we can reflect Yeshua's love and mercy to Israel, ministering comfort and strength to those who need it most.

We are grateful for your compassionate and generous partnership. You sustain the work of HaTikva Project and bring the light of the Lord to Israel every day from wherever you are - in Yeshua's name.

From Jerusalem,



Evan and Elisa Levine

P.S. Join the Comforters of Zion movement of monthly partners with a recurring gift of \$50 or more, marking your commitment to bring comfort, stability, and hope to at-risk Israelis in Yeshua's name.

SCAN HERE TO GIVE

