



News and Current Events :: Pray for Ami (son of Ariel pastor injured in blast)

Pray for Ami (son of Ariel pastor injured in blast), on: 2008/3/21 18:38

This could fit under 'News and Current Events' and 'Miracles That Follow The Plow'. We really need to pray for Ami and his family. I'm receiving email updates about him from a family that is close friends with the family. I'll put the news article about the attack first and then give an update on Ami's current condition.

Son of Ariel pastor injured in blast
By REBECCA ANNA STOIL

The 16-year-old son of a prominent Christian pastor, David Ortiz, was seriously wounded in Ariel on Thursday by a powerful explosion in his home.

The youth was alone at the time and suffered shrapnel injuries and burns to his neck and chest.

The bomb, which was apparently in a Purim gift basket, also caused extensive damage to the family's apartment.

Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Ch.-Supt. Dani Poleg said police had not ruled out any motive - including that radical Jews or Muslims may have targeted the family.

The boy was rushed to the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva in serious condition.

Before he was sedated, one paramedic said, he managed to say that the explosion took place when he tried to open a package that had arrived at the apartment. The initial police investigation indicated that the family's maid had found the package outside and brought it in.

The boy's parents, David and Leah Ortiz, are well-known in Ariel, where they have been living for more than a decade.

David Ortiz works mainly with Palestinians in the West Bank, encouraging them to convert to Christianity.

Ortiz, said one acquaintance, had received death threats from Muslims angered by his missionary efforts. A number of his followers have been beaten up and jailed by Palestinian Authority officials.

Ortiz has a close relationship with Ariel Mayor Ron Nachman, who has actively pursued strengthening the town's connections with overseas Christian groups.

David and his wife, Leah, described by a neighbor as a Jewish believer in Jesus, also lead a congregation of a few dozen Christians in Ariel. Neighbors said that around a year-and-a-half ago, flyers were circulated in the family's neighborhood, with pictures of a number of Ariel residents, including David Ortiz, warning residents that the people portrayed were engaged in missionary activities directed at the town's Jews.

Due to concerns about the family's security, cameras were installed at the apartment, and were in place at the time of the explosion.

(<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1205420741251&pagenameJPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>) source

Excerpts from update from Tommy Waller:
Ami Update 10:00 am 3/21

First, Ami is stable. For Ami to be alive is a great miracle. Just a while ago I talked to Yoav, who is at the Ortiz apartment. He told me it is impossible to look at this apartment and believe someone could be alive. The top and bottom floor windows are broken out. There is shrapnel all over the walls. He just pulled a two inch by one inch piece of metal out of the refrigerator. Every piece of furniture destroyed. Like our apartment, their apartment is on the 3rd floor. The windows on a car parked below were blown out from the blast. I tell you all of this to tell you that Ami was holding the bomb when it exploded. He is alive!

I also just got off the phone with David, Ami's father, and it is amazing what God is doing. David could barely talk without crying just sharing with me what has happened so far. The doctor, a specialist in this kind of trauma who has seen several terrorist bombing victims, told David that a miracle has happened. He never seen this kind of recovery!

As I share what he said **please make note of the continuing prayer points.**

Starting at the head: He left eye is okay. They pulled a large piece of metal out of his right eye and there is still a lot of pressure on that eye. We need a miracle for his right eye. The doctor believes there is a chance now to save it. There is no brain damage! Remember he was holding the bomb! Hallelujah! David said the swelling in his face has also gone down considerably.

Neck: There are large and deep cuts to the neck, but no damage to the main arteries - a miracle.

Chest: One lung was severely damaged and they are in the process of trying to save it. We need another miracle here. The doctor believes there is a chance. No damage to the heart or vessels. Praise God!

Stomach; Most of his internal organs were severely injured from the blast. Reconstruction of the intestines and kidneys was done last night. Today he is able to urinate - a miracle sign that his organs are beginning to work again. He also has 2nd and 3rd degree burns over most of the front of his body.

Legs: The muscle in one of his thighs is completely exposed and terribly lacerated. The doctor believes there is a chance it could be saved. Some news reports are saying that they have amputated the leg, but that has not happened. We are believing for a miracle here to save his leg. He has lost some of his toes. I don't know how many.

I was able to pray with David. It was such a blessing to see his faith. He and Leah have been at the hospital now without sleep going into the second day. Pray for them.

Israel has faced its share of terrorism in the Jewish community, but never has it faced anything like thissomething solely directed at Messianic Jewish believers. How will God use this? How will He use us and not just our family, but you as well? We must stand with the Body when it suffers. Look at your newspaper and national newsthe world and Israel is watching.

B'Shem Yeshua,

Tommy Waller

Re: Pray for Ami (son of Ariel pastor injured in blast) - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/3/21 18:51

Praying for more miracles - to God be the glory!

Re: - posted by Ruach34 (), on: 2008/3/21 23:22

Amen. When one part of the body hurts the whole body hurts.

It is good to see this post and know that others are concerned and involved with the suffering body of Christ.

God is good, in all things may He have the preeminence and glory!

Re: Pray for Ami (son of Ariel pastor injured in blast) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/22 8:06

Speechless ...

Re:, on: 2008/3/22 13:51

Quote:

HeartSong wrote:

Praying for more miracles - to God be the glory!

Amen! We need to keep praying. Here is another update:

HaYovel Update: Ami 3/22

Ami is experiencing miracle after miracle. The doctors performed an exploratory operation today to ensure that nothing has been overlooked and are still quite perplexed at everything that's happened....

David and Leah have experience overwhelming love and support from the religious, secular, and messianic Jewish communities in Israel. The Christian community world wide has been amazing. The prayers of the saints have been offered and God has heard our cries!

Re:, on: 2008/3/25 23:27

There continues to be more miracles. Praise God!

Here are some updates:

HaYovel: Ami Update, March 25

The word for Ami continues to be miracle. Everyone including the doctors are using miracle to describe what has happened. Although still in critical condition the doctors are speaking very positive about his recovery. The main prayer point from here on out will be against infection. The explosion left almost no skin on his thighs, stomach, and chest.

Today the doctors will unwrap the special bandaging around his body and analyze his conditionthen re-wrap him again. The procedure has to be done every other day. They're also planning to take out the breathing tubes. Leah, Ami's mother, told me this morning that taking out the breathing tubes alone would take about 12 hours. With Ami everything is layat layat, slowly slowly.

After the breathing tubes are out they will begin to take him off his sedative medicine. Since he arrived they've kept him in a coma to restrict any movement.

There have been several miraculous things that have happened since the explosion. I found out after I arrived that when the bomb went off one of the first people to the scene was a woman who had served as an EMT in the IDF. When she arrive Ami was literally drowning in his own blood. She was able to make a hole in his wind pipe and use a straw to enable him to breath. She lives in the first floor of the Ortiz apartment building. I don't know her name yet, but what a miracle.

My son Caleb suggested that we encourage people to send Ami a postcard. I talked to David, his father, and he thought it was a great idea. I would encourage you to just send a postcard. Anything in an package or envelope would be considered suspicious. Even flowers are a problem. Security is checking everything. It would be good to find a postcard that says a little about where you're fromcity, country, etc...

HaYovel: Ami Update March 26

There is good coverage from CBN about Ami at this link: (<http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/344905.aspx>) CBN News/Ami

The doctors have again operated on Ami's right eye. They were able to take out much of the shrapnel except for one very dangerously large piece too deeply embedded to get to. The eye is beginning to bleed which has the doctors concerned. Please continue to pray the bleeding will stop and the metal will be removed.

Pray for the large wounds, like bullet holes, from the shrapnel on his chest and stomach to heal. They did notice skin beginning to develop on his arms which the doctors were encouraged about.

They are still carefully trying to clean the area around the thighs in order to start skin grafting. They decided not to push the legs right now....

Blessings,

Tommy Waller

Re:, on: 2008/3/27 19:13

Is anyone reading these updates and keeping up with the situation? It's not a problem to post them, I just want to make sure they're being read. :)

HaYovel: Ami Update March 26 evening

Ami's Condition

Ami is waking up to the reality of what happened. David, his father, says he is overwhelmed. He is fighting major panic attacks. For us it has been days since the explosion. For Ami it just happened. Not only is he dealing with the horror of the event, but he's waking up not seeing out of his right eye. He has no hearing in his left ear and a constant ringing in both ears. One of his lungs is still damaged so breathing is not easy. His neck, chest, stomach, and legs are badly wounded with 2nd and 3rd degree burns and large and small punctures and cuts from the shrapnel. It's hard for me to imagine any of this, but David just told me that in some places there is only a layer of fat separating his muscle from the bandaging.

On top of all of this Ami is fighting anger. How could someone take something good, a mitzvah, like a Purim gift and do something like this?

Prayer Points

- The right eye is still not responding.
- Pray against infection.
- Pray for continued healing in his lung.
- Pray for restored hearing in his left ear. Doctors say his eardrum is ripped which could heal on its own or by surgery. Not sure right now if hearing loss is permanent.

- Pray against panic attacks.

- Pray that the Ruach HaChodesh (Holy Spirit) works in Ami to allow him to forgive. The wounds of unforgiveness could be far more damaging than what he is suffering even now.

Re:, on: 2008/4/2 20:18

I decided to post another update on Ami. This email testifies to the power of God who does answer prayer and hear the cries of His people. Note the words, "the doctors are finding it difficult to use medical terms to describe Ami's recovery." That's God! Alleluia!

Ami Update March 31

David told us last night and again this morning that the doctors are finding it difficult to use medical terms to describe Ami's recovery. What would have/should have taken a normal person weeks of recovery time Ami has done in a little over a week. No, he's not "out of the woods" yet, but the forest is not looking as dark as it used to. He may even be seeing a small clearing just ahead.

The doctors are saying now that they are expecting 100% recovery in both eyes. If you don't believe your prayer availed him muchthis is a miracle. Doctors, just days ago, gave little hope of saving his right eye.

Ami is also making improvements emotionally. We were able to go to the hospital last night after Brayden, and Zac were finished working at the Ortiz apartment. We were hoping at some point to be able to see Ami before we had to leave to come back to the US next week. We were surprised when David came out and said Ami wanted to see Brayden. Brayden and Zac have been like spiritual big brothers to Ami since we came to Ariel.

I don't know who encouraged who the most Brayden or Ami. Brayden was able to pray with him and speak encouragement. After Brayden returned Zac and I were also able to see him. When we entered the room he slowly raised his hand to shake ours. I thought, "Ami is back!" He even smiled and although a little groggy he had a good conversation with us.

This is the power of prayer. When the doctors say they don't understand how this is happeningDavid and Leah are telling them very boldly, "It is the power of prayer." Everyone who comes to the hospital (and there have been many) the testimony of prayer is what everyone is talking about. Christian, Jewish, Muslimthey all want to know about Ami and they all hear about the power of prayer.

SoKeep Praying!

Continue praying for healing in his right eye. He's not 100% yet. Also pray for his ears. His hearing is also improving every day, but still not 100%.

Although improving emotionally there is still a lot to work through. Pray against the constant torment the enemy is continuing to pound him with.

Pray for his lungs. There is still metal in his lungs that could hinder his breathing.

Pray healing over the numerous deep wounds and burns on his neck, chest, stomach, and legs. Pray against infection.

Tonight the boys (men) and I will go to Jerusalem and lead/participate in the "night watch" at the 24/7 prayer center at Succat Hillel just outside the Old City. God is doing something amazing heresomething much bigger than our minds can reach around.

Thank you for praying. You've made a difference.

Shalom B'Yeshua HaMashiach,

Tommy Waller

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/4/2 23:38

Quote:
-----The doctors are saying now that they are expecting 100% recovery in both eyes. If you don't believe your prayer availed mucht his is a miracle. Doctors, just days ago, gave little hope of saving his right eye.

Quote:
-----Everyone who comes to the hospital (and there have been many) the testimony of prayer is what everyone is talking about. Christian, Jewish, Muslimthey all want to know about Ami and they all hear about the power of prayer.

Praise the Lord! All Honour and Glory to His Holy Name . . .

Re:, on: 2008/4/4 16:52

Hallelujah! The news continues to be gloriously wonderful - praise be to Jehovah Rophe!

Once again, if you want to send Ami a postcard just pm or email me and I'll give you the address.

Wednesday

Ami continues to miraculously improve. As he begins to gain vitality he also feels more of the pain associated with the severe burns and deep wounds from the shrapnel. Tomorrow (Thursday) he will begin receiving the skin grafts to the legs. From what I understand this is also very painful. Please pray for endurance - physically, mentally, and spiritually to get through this.

The eye doctor came in today and said there really wasn't any reason for him to see Ami anymore - his eyes look perfect . Wow!

The doctors are saying that his legs are still amazingly strong and that they believe he will walk out of the hospital. For many of us we would not be surprised to see him run out of the hospital! Praise Abba!

Re:, on: 2008/4/5 19:34

Ami Update April 5

Today Ami continues to deal with physical and emotional pain. He began asking again today, "Why did this happen to me?". Please continue to pray for his ability to battle in the war of his mind.

The pain in his right arm and his right leg has been intense. Both of his arms along with the severe burns have damaged blood vessels and nerves. After the burns heal the doctors say they will do surgery to reconnect or replace the vessels in his arm. Pray for the healing of these vessels and nerves before the burns heallet's pray healing now!

As I mentioned in the previous letter skin grafts have been done on the right leg and stomach. They had planned to do grafts on the left leg but when they started the procedure the skin had already begun to grow back. Right now his right leg is giving him the most pain from the grafts....

Continue to pray for David and Leah. As you can imagine it is very difficult to see your child going through this pain. When Ami cries for relief they feel helpless. Leah used the term "shelshocked". As I mentioned before I can tell how Ami is doing by the sound of David and Leah's voice and the look on their faces. Leah did say when I talk to her this morning that Ami was finally getting some desperately needed sleep today....

B'Shem Yeshua,

Tommy Waller

Pray for Ami (son of Ariel pastor injured in blast) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/4/5 20:20

Have been following and praying from afar ... this is all so incredibly ... agonizing. The wonderful mixed with the exceedingly difficult, the battle for this young mind ... the parents.

David
Leah
Ami

Re: Pray for Ami (son of Ariel pastor injured in blast), on: 2008/4/9 11:28

HaYovel: Ami update April 8

Yesterday Ami began sitting up and today he walked! He had a little help, but he walked! Each day he shows miraculous improvement. To see where he was and where he is now is nothing less than a miracle.

I wish I could tell you everything is wonderful. Realistically Ami has a high mountain to climb to reach full recovery. The Doctor told David that it may be a year before Ami is really moving again. In many cases our spiritual understanding is limited to believing that God only makes things goodwhat ever our definition of good is. Healing is from God and our pain and struggles are from Satan. Leah, Ami's mother, made a statement that God spared Ami's life, but, like Job, has allowed Ami to suffer to a certain point. Why would God do that?

Many of the Palestinians whom David, Ami's dad, has shared the Gospel with know this all too well. Salvation does not bring to them a "well to do" life and it does not guarantee them good health. Many have been beaten severely. Many have spent long time periods in run down prisons for no reason or justification. Several have been murdered. In the 10/40 window this is a common occurrence. Eternity is their only hope. Death is a beautiful reward. Worth every struggleworth all the pain.

Ami's pain is intense. Along with the pain he is beginning to experience severe itching. It has been hard to keep his hands away from the scabs forming on many parts of his body. The doctors are limiting his pain medicine mainly because they want his body to get stronger and to also prevent addiction. The writhing pain keeps sleep to a minimum. His helpless screams through most of the night are taking their toll on Ami as well as David and Leah. Please pray.

Brayden and Zac were able to see Ami tonight. Again, to look back at where he started a few short weeks ago is amazing, but Brayden said it shook him to see him. He remembered Joni Eareckson Tada making the statement in her book that she appreciated those who could be with her and be themselves. Treating her the same now as they did before her accident. For Brayden the lights were brighter this time in the hospital room. The bandages that hid most of the wounds in his first visit were still covering a lot, but not covering as much and a few horrific scabs were visible. He struggled to stay focused.

My friend, Michael Card, wrote in his book "A Sacred Sorrow" how we mishandle or misunderstand the process of worship in our most difficult times. He wrote about the dilemma of 9/11 when "no one had a song to sing". And even though we give glory for what God has donefor Ami, who remains in the fire, along with his family night and day, it is okay to lament in the way David did in Psalms 10:1, "Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do you hide in times of trouble?" and then later declare in verse 16, "The LORD is King forever and ever."

Except for his mom and dad, his brothers and sister, Ami is having a difficult time being around anyone else. The one thing he really loves though is hearing his mother read postcards to him. Yesterday a huge stack arrived in the mail and Leah read most of them out loud non-stop until midnight. At one point thinking Ami had finally fallen asleep she laid the last ones down only to hear Ami say, "mom keep reading!". Please, let's continue to send encouraging postcards to Ami. He's enjoying seeing all the places they're coming from and your words are actually bringing emotional, physical, and spiritual healing to him....

B'Shem Yeshua,

Tommy Waller

Re:, on: 2008/4/14 23:13

Some of the info in these two updates might be repeated information. Please take the time to watch the video of Pastor David Ortiz (Ami's father) as he shares what happened and how God has worked.

~Joy

Ami Update April 13 (Hannah)

Ami has been making steady progress, which is actually an understatement. Just one week after the long night when his very survival was in doubt, he was moved out of ICU. In spite of the shrapnel in his eye, which required a delicate operation, he can now see out of both eyes just fine. Right around the time they stopped worrying about his collapsed lung (I lost track of the progress on that), he started sitting up in a chair, out of bed, and he is now being encouraged to walk. Not only are the skin grafts working well, but one leg is unexpectedly healing without grafts.

I kind of feel for the medical team, who has been caught flat-footed by Ami's fast, unpredictable recovery... they're not used to having to use the word "ness" (Heb. for miracle) so many times with regard to one patient - especially one who they knew was at death's door and in danger of losing all his limbs only 3-1/2 weeks ago.

Your prayers, letters, gifts, and especially the postcards addressed to Ami, have been giving him and his family encouragement beyond what you would imagine. And the meals have continued to come in faithfully, 3-1/2 weeks without a break, often providing more than they could eat. May the Lord bless the local cooks - from the responses of the family, it's clear that you are feeding them with both food and love.

All this gives them strength to meet the new challenges that Ami's progress is bringing.

He is experiencing a lot of pain from muscles that have 'frozen up' from disuse, from healing scabs that are pulling on sensitive skin, and from half-healed wounds (pray against infection, which is currently a danger in some of the deeper injuries). He needs several operations to recover the use of his hands (the blood vessels and nerves are mangled). The medical staff is trying to reduce the sedatives, which sometimes results in more sensitivity to pain and sleepless nights. The physical therapy is as painful as it is necessary. Fighting to get back to something called "normal" for his new body may take up to a year. An intimidating thought, as you can imagine. Can you also imagine the hard questions that must inevitably come to a 15-year-old, whose normal everyday life has suddenly spun out of control?

Struggle for a minute with the thoughts that are probably going through Ami's mind (easy for me to imagine, having a boy nearly the same age). The loss of "only" 2 toes seems trivial in comparison with what he might have lost, and in light of all the tremendous miracles God has done for him. It's obvious the Lord has preserved him. And yet, who can explain to Ami why God allowed anything AT ALL to happen to him - and why only to him?

We don't dare resort to cheap, easy answers, like "believers sometimes pay a price for their faith", or "his parents are on the frontlines of ministry, and spiritual attacks can be expected" or "it's okay, because all things work together for good". None of these honestly address the question of why HE was the one injured, while all his believing friends and the rest of his family are walking around untouched (as are many other families "on the frontlines of ministry" here). These thoughts bring dilemmas that are scary enough for an adult, let alone a teenager who is right at that precarious age when you begin questioning everything you have been told as a child.

.....
blessings from the Land,
Hannah

HaYovel Ami Update - April 11

David Ortiz, Ami's father, was able to share at a conference in Jerusalem Wednesday evening. Go to this link to hear David's heart about what happened: (<http://blip.tv/file/815590>) David Ortiz Link *video shared with permission of moderator.*

Ami started the painful task of physical therapy yesterday. Motivation is difficult and the therapists are pushing him hard to make every excruciating move. Pray for endurance. Ami says the pain is making him crazy.

He's also having a difficult time with his appetite. Food is not appealing to him. Pray for an increase in appetite.

Pray for his emotional state. Today he saw his foot for the first time without two toes. It's easy for us to say it is a miracle to have only lost two toes in all of this, but this is devastating to a 15 year old young man.

I can't emphasize how much the post cards have meant to Ami. Please keep them coming - tell your friends - send more than one!

We are praying that as so many pray for Ami an awareness of God's heart for Israel will increase all over the world. No theology can actually take Israel out of the palm of YHWH's hand. (Isaiah 49:16) No theology can undo the promise/covenant from God's mouth to the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Genesis 12:7) Even if our congregational shepherds never mention Israel's place in God's heart. Even if you yourself don't completely understand. We must all agree that God's word cannot be compromised (Isaiah 40:8)our God loves Israel - Psalms 87:2, Psalm 132:8,13, 14, Psalm 137:5-6, Isaiah 4:2-6, Isaiah 46:13, Isaiah 40:1-11, Isaiah 52:1,2, Isaiah 62:6,7, Jeremiah 30:17, Obadiah 1:17,18, Micah 4:7, Zephaniah 3:14-17, Zachariah 1:14,17, Zachariah 2:8, Acts 1:8, Romans 11:26, Hebrews 12:22-24, Revelation 14:1.

Let's pray that our heart be joined with God's heart and the mystery of Israel be revealed to all of us. (Romans 11:25)

Shabbat Shalom,

Tommy Waller

Re:, on: 2008/4/17 22:53

The Kentucky House Resolution contains specific details on what Ami went through and the injuries he received from the bomb.

HaYovel Ami Update April 17

David, Ami's dad, continues to use the Passover analogy of the death angel passing over his house to describe Ami's miracle. Today Ami continues to amazingly recover from the explosion meant to murder him and his family.

Each day Ami makes some increment of improvement. The doctors are deciding when to do surgery on his arms to repair damaged arteries. They also want to operate to repair the damaged eardrum.

Ami is still trying to absorb it all. The weightiness of the thought that someone would want to purposely hurt him and his family is emotionally debilitating. Please continue to specifically pray for him in this area.

Obviously he has come a long way since the attack and I will try to update you as I get new prayer points from David and Leah. My family and I are in Kentucky through the end of April and I may not be able to get updates out as timely as needed....

Speaking of Kentucky I just received from David (<http://www.hayovel.com/HouseResolutionforAmi.pdf>) a House Resolution statement made by the Kentucky House of Representatives which strongly supports Ami and the Ortiz family and makes a very strong statement against the persecution of believers in Israel. Follow this linkKentucky Resolution to read the entire draft.

We are preparing for what I believe will be a life changing event here in Kentucky. Only our Heavenly Father could give to us a Feast so perfectly descriptive of our deliverance, our salvation, through the sacrifice of the only one worthy to be called Yeshua HaMashiach. Passover is a time when we truly discover the identity of the Lamb of God. I would encourage every believer to recognize the day of Passover and the Week of Unleavened. Not from the anti-semitic position (Romans 11:25) of our past, but from the eternal Word of our Creator King. (Isaiah 40:8)

Chag Samaech (Happy Feast),

Tommy Waller

Re:, on: 2008/4/18 22:36

Friday, 11:00 11.4.2008

Today, Ami left his room for the first time, in a wheelchair. This is a sign that his condition is definitely improving – at a rate which is surprising everyone. All his wounds, for several of which he has already undergone skin grafts, have healed. Even the serious injuries to his right leg are healing of their own accord. Two parts of a toe in his left leg were cut off, but the doctors are saying that this won't affect the leg's full functioning. Even changing the bandages has become easier and less painful. At the same time, Ami is still experiencing severe pain and needs strong painkillers. He is having physiotherapy every day, as well as occupational therapy. His mental state is still fragile. He's depressed and angry and finding it very difficult to deal with the pain. Leah repeatedly emphasizes the importance of people's prayers. She says that is simply obvious that they are being answered. She wants to say that the family have decided to continue stay in Ariel. The problem, she says, isn't that of their family alone but of all the Messianic believers, who are now facing danger. As of today, despite the round-the-clock police investigation, no suspects have been found.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/4/18 22:49

Quote:
-----All his wounds, for several of which he has already undergone skin grafts, have healed. Even the serious injuries to his right leg are healing of their own accord.

O God, my God, what an awesome God Thou art. How we praise Thee and adore Thee.

Re:, on: 2008/5/16 17:40

Friday, 25.4.2008 11:00

Despite the fact that we are only reporting on Ami's condition weekly, it is improving day by day. Today brushed his teeth by himself for the first time. He's out of bed most of the time, preferring to sit in an armchair in his room and going for short walks according to his strength. The same is true of the pain in his right hand: people have prayed and Ami no longer has any need of painkillers. As of today, he does not require any further surgeries. He's recovering well and will probably move to the rehab center at Tel HaShomer next week. All in all, Leah reports a great relief in the situation, and

despite the fact that Ami's recuperation will still take a long time, he will recover. Leah asks people to continue to pray for his full recovery.

(http://www.kivun.net/index.php?subactions=showfull&id=1196070946&ucat=archive&start_from=) source

Re:, on: 2008/5/16 18:45

Thank you Joy, for keeping up with this. :-)

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 20:08

AMI ORTIZ UPDATE MAY 22, 2008

From Leah Ortiz

Shalom...

We thank so many of you who have written and asked to be updated on Ami's condition as you want to continue to lift him up before the throne of God. We can't tell you how grateful we are that the momentum is continuing, as we are facing new challenges every day. However, we are greatly encouraged by the outpouring of love from all over the world, and Ami is daily encouraged as well. We thank Yeshua for moving your hearts to convey His encouragement to our family.

We moved into the Tel HaShomer Children's hospital two weeks ago, which is a rehabilitation facility and one of the best in the country. Ami has a strenuous schedule which includes Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, School studies, Computer lessons, and training in an exercise center. All of this has really strengthened him, and along with renewed appetite, he's looking more and more like "Ami".

However, there are many struggles as well. Interspersed between all of his activities have been visits to specialists. The first specialists to see him were the ENT doctors (Ear, Nose and Throat). We found out that Ami's right ear drum is almost completely blown out and the left ear drum has significant damage. The first doctor told us that he will need skin grafts in both ears which includes a recovery period of 3 to 6 weeks on each ear. However, yesterday we visited a second specialist who specializes in ear injuries from terror attacks. She had better news - she said there was a 90% chance that the ear drums would close up themselves - heal by themselves. She said that Ami is young, and she's seen it happen many times. Even after the first doctor's assessment, I had faith that the Lord would close up those ear drums!! His next appointment will be in 3 months. The doctor said it might take a year for them to heal naturally, but if there is no improvement in 3 months, they will schedule the operations. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE EAR DRUMS TO BE HEALED. Ami's hearing has been significantly affected as a result of this injury.

Ami was sent to an Eye Specialist as well. He said that there are still many pieces of metal in Ami's eyes, and it is better if they don't come out, but stay in as it could cause problems if they come out. He also said that the eyes were not seeing 20/20 and he might need glasses. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE LORD TO DISSOLVE THE METAL IN HIS EYES, AND FOR THE HEALING OF HIS EYES TO CONTINUE UNTIL 20/20 VISION.

Ami has also had significant burn wounds and subsequent scarring all over his body - also scars where large pieces of shrapnel were removed. His body also has the tendency to scar quickly and for the scars to build up rapidly. Therefore, pressure bandages have been made for him. They are like thick support stockings. The upper body "suit" covers his whole upper body including his neck. It is very difficult to get used to, and he's been told that he has to wear them 23 hours a day for one to two years!! The lower body suit is being prepared now. All of this is emotionally and mentally hard for Ami to adjust to as well as physically rigorous. PLEASE PRAY THAT THE SCARS WOULD HEAL QUICKLY, AND THAT AMI WOULD BE ABLE TO ADJUST TO THESE BANDAGES.

Ami was also seen by a plastic surgeon, who has ordered x-rays to be done on his hands and feet, as he has extreme sensitivity especially in his left palm, and in the toes that were amputated. He thinks there is shrapnel embedded that might be painful to him, in which case they will surgically remove them. Ami has over 100 pieces of shrapnel in his body. Many of them will be expelled by his body naturally. One day, two groups of believers came to visit us and I asked them to

o pray for the shrapnel to be expelled quickly. That night Ami said - I feel all the pieces of metal moving! He was in pain and we had to give him Tylenol!! We need to be careful what we ask from the Lord!!

I am praying for Ami's healing to happen quicker than anyone can imagine. I believe that with prayer and Yeshua's healing power, everything is possible.

Tomorrow, Friday March 23rd, will be a special prayer meeting in our congregation in Ariel. Messianic leaders from all over Israel will be gathering for a time of fasting and prayer for Ami and the situations surrounding the attack, from 10am to 2PM Israel time. Even this week, in a town called Or Yehuda, the deputy mayor along with local rabbis stirred up the religious youth to go door to door and gather New Testaments that had been distributed by believers a few weeks before. They then burned the New Testaments. This is a very serious development, because even in Nazi Germany, Jewish prayer books were burned in the early years before the Holocaust began. We would urge you to denounce this act to the Israeli Embassy in your area, and also to ask why the perpetrators of the Purim Package bombing have not yet been apprehended.

The article about the burning of the New Testaments can be found at: <http://WWW.jpost.Com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1211288128832&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Thank you again for your prayer, love and support.

In the Messiah,

Leah Ortiz

Re:, on: 2008/5/23 20:21

Quote:
-----Tomorrow, Friday March 23rd, will be a special prayer meeting in our congregation in Ariel. Messianic leaders from all over Israel will be gathering for a time of fasting and prayer for Ami and the situations surrounding the attack, from 10am to 2PM Israel time.

Thanks for the information. I will be praying.

Re:, on: 2008/5/27 18:49

HaYovel: Ami Update from Leah May 27th

From Leah

Ami had another appointment this week with a hand specialist - he has severe pain in his hands, especially the left which is a result of nerve damage. The doctor told us that he needs operations in both of his arms, as the nerve damage begins quite high up, above the elbow at least on the left side. We were told that one of the major nerves is torn, and another is damaged. If the torn one can't be reconnected, they'll have to do a graft from another nerve somewhere else in his body, in which case it will have to grow, and could take a year to see results. She said that nerves grow at the rate of 1cm. a day!! He has very long arms, and so he has about 1/2 a meter of nerves to grow in!! However, it could be that the existing nerves can be repaired and reconnected, and so let's pray for that, and for continued miracles for Ami. The surgery on the left hand is scheduled for this Monday, June 2.

I have to say that Ami took the news better than I did - because he's anxious for the pain to be relieved.

We also have to see the foot specialist, as he has tendons that need to be reattached in his right foot as well. I am in touch with a very well known plastic surgeon who wants to see Ami also, to see what can be done for the left foot and the skin graft scars.

Please pray that we will be able to stay faithful and full of faith through this ordeal. I often feel overwhelmed by what Ami is going through, and Ami is weakened by the pain to the point of tears every so often. David and I are grateful though, that bottom line he's with us, and we can be going through what we're going through. We are also grateful because even

in the natural there are solutions for all of his problems. We are grateful that we have all of you so faithfully praying and believing for us. We are also grateful that we have a great God who loves us and has never left us or forsaken us for a moment.

I ask for prayer for our criminal lawyer, Yossi Graiver, who is representing us. He is not a believer, but an extraordinary person with a heart for what has happened to Ami and a desire to see justice served. We also have a Messianic lawyer who has helped us from the beginning, Calev Myers, who represents the Messianic community here in Israel in matters concerning the faith and the law of the land. We are extremely blessed. Please pray for the legal case, that the criminals will be caught, and that a full sentence will be served with no plea bargains.

Thank you, and I will try to keep you updated as to the results of the operation as soon as I can get to my computer.

Yours in the Messiah,
Leah Ortiz

Re:, on: 2008/6/1 13:37

HaYovel: Ami Update from Leah May 30

Here's today's update from Leah, Ami's mother. Our prayer is that our Father in Heaven give all of us revelation as to the significance of this tragedy and compel us with His passion for Ami and Israel to pray. In Mark 4:11 Yeshua says, "To you (His disciples) it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God". Paul says, "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion (conceited), that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." (Romans 11:25)

Are we arrogant because we are ignorant of God's mystery concerning Israel? It is time for all of us to pray and receive clearer understanding of this mysteryIsrael's ability to see is depending on it. The Groom will not come until the Bride is ready which includes all of Ami (His people).

Shabbat Shalom,

Tommy Waller

www.HaYovel.com

From Leah

Thank you all for praying for Ami - I have received so many encouraging emails. We're also thankful for every postcard, letter, calendar, drawing, and love gift that we've received. Our way is so much easier because of the love and concern expressed through every form of communication.

I wanted to update you on something -- Ami was scheduled to have the operation to repair nerves in his left arm this Monday, June 2nd. However, on Tuesday he all of a sudden became ill with a throat infection for which he's on antibiotics. Therefore, the operation is postponed for two weeks!! I believe this is of the Lord, as there is time for the Lord to intervene as we press in and pray for healing of the nerves in his arms and hands. He experiences much pain in his left hand especially, but he's being given a new medication for the neuropathy, which is beginning in small doses, and then will be increased.

Again, I believe that this delay is from the Lord, when the doctor told me, I felt a joy that I can't describe in my heart, and I "knew because I knew" this delay was from Him.

Thank you that you are there for us - and that you are faithful to pray. We love you all, and are grateful to the Lord for you every day. We pray for blessing on your families and great increase especially in the Spirit in these last days.

A video report has been done on Ami and the bombing which will air on Channel one in Israel at 8PM our time this Friday May 30th.. The police tried to stop this report from being aired and brought Channel one into court twice!! However they were defeated twice. They say that they don't want details of the case revealed for their investigation but 9 weeks have passed with no arrests and no suspects. This is something that needs much prayer, but please pray for the perpetrator

ors of this attempted murder and hate crime to be apprehended and for justice to be done.

Leah

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/6/1 14:38

Quote:
-----Again, I believe that this delay is from the Lord, when the doctor told me, I felt a joy that I can't describe in my heart, and I "knew be
cause I knew" this delay was from Him.

Thank You Jesus!

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/6/1 15:05

Ami - mother; fear; people - Hitchcock's Bible Names Dictionary

Ami - (builder), one of Solomon's servants, (Ezra 2:57) called Amon, Or Amen, Amon #S in (Nehemiah 7:59) - Smith's Bible Names Dictionary

Search BibleGateway KJV

1. 2 Kings 14:25

He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

2. 2 Chronicles 6:37

Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;

3. Ezra 2:57

The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

4. Psalm 84:1

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!

5. Daniel 3:29

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

6. Jonah 1:1

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

7. Matthew 1:4

And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

8. Luke 3:33

Which was the son of Aminadab, which was the son of Aram, which was the son of Esrom, which was the son of Phares, which was the son of Juda,

9. Luke 23:41

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

10. James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Re:, on: 2008/6/11 13:25

June 7 (Message from facebook prayer group for Ami)

Dear All,

Below is a link to a news report done by Israel's Channel 1 News. This news report on Ami was the highest rated show on Israeli TV during the time it was aired due to the number of viewers. As you will learn from the video, the Israeli police attempted to stop the airing of this report by taking Channel 1 to court twice. When their first attempt failed, they brought it before a higher court. Thankfully, the second attempt failed as well. The Lord used the fact that they were trying to cover up the case to bring greater publicity and awareness. Advertisements were made to make the public aware of how much the police are trying to block any information to be revealed about the case. It made people more interested.

The airing of the report also caused public officials as well as other media outlets to take interest in what's happening. They are starting to wonder what is being hidden and why. This is pressuring the police to finally start working on the case after they've sat on the evidence without doing anything.

Also, you will see in one part of the report that Leah was asked if she's a missionary. Her reply was no. The word missionary in this land has a very negative connotation; even used as an insult. It represents a dishonest person who uses bribery or force as means of getting the Jewish people to convert. It does not represent someone who proclaims the love of Yeshua for His people.

As you watch this report, please not only respond as it asks you at the end, but we ask that you pray. Here are some prayer points:

Pray for Ami:

Pray that the Lord would continue to speak to Ami and give him love, peace, hope, and joy.

Pray that the Lord would continue to perform miracles on his physical body. He still faces multiple operations to reattach severed nerves in his arms and a long road of physical therapy. Pray for miraculous healing.

Pray for us (David and Leah):

Pray that the Lord would continue to give us more grace and strength for each day.

Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and discernment as we deal with the police, officials, lawyers, and the media.

Pray that the Lord will continue to give us courage and boldness to proclaim His name.

Pray for our children:

Pray that the Lord will use this to work in the hearts of our children and not be a point of discouragement.

Pray for the believers:

Pray that the Lord will continue to unite the believers all over the land and the world through this matter.

Pray that the Lord will cast out all fear through His love and that they will be bold and courageous in declaring their faith.

Pray that the media will not twist any facts, but present the truth so that the Lord will be glorified.

We thank you for all your prayers, support, and encouragements in this season.

Please note that the video is also on YouTube in two parts. You can search for Ami Ortiz Israel. It will also be uploaded on GodTube.

In Yeshua,

David & Leah

I took the link out of this message since it isn't working due to technical difficulties. You can find it on youtube or God tube. These two videos have Ami and his parents on there. If you have been praying for Ami, I encourage you to watch these videos. It is shocking to see the state of Ami's body, but thrilling to realize the miracle of him even being alive today.

y. May God continue to work His miraculous power!

~Joy

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/6/11 17:13

Here are the links to the YouTube videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub6c09um5gs>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sypBz7-LT4k&feature=related>

Joy, thank you for keeping us updated on Ami.

Re:, on: 2008/6/20 20:22

Hayovel Ami Update June 20

This update from Leah is quite revealing and contains major prayer points for Ami and his family. Leah mentions her struggle with MS. This family battle is a battle we must all participate in. May we never let Ami or the Ortiz family struggle without our prayers no matter how long the struggle last.

I've put together a slideshow to hopefully allow you to become more familiar with Ami. My dear friend Lisa Bevil just released an album appropriately called "When Healing Comes" at www.lisabevill.com. Her song "I Will Pray For You" I've renamed "Ami's Song". I hope the slide show stirs you and others to pray continually for Ami and the Ortiz family.

For a smaller file and easier download follow this link: http://www.hayovel.com/content/media/ami_slide_show_small.wmv

For better quality, but larger file follow this link:
www.hayovel.com/content/media/Ami_Slide_Show.wmv

Shabbat Shalom,

Tommy

Ami Update From Leah

This week has flown by, but with Ami experiencing more and more pain in his left arm and hand, and now electric "shocks" in one of the toes that was partially amputated by the bomb and sometimes throughout his whole body. I have to say it has been a bit discouraging, as we know the whole world is praying, and you are all praying so diligently.... I've been wondering, where are you Lord?? Where are you in this, and why are you letting Ami suffer and seemingly get worse even. A brother just sent me something as I sat down to write this update and it is the answer. It is too long to include it all, but here are a few excerpts....

A long time ago, a precious older saint said something to me which has never left me. It has become like a permanent message pinned on the notice-board of my mind. This is what she said:

'When God wants to do something great, He starts with something difficult;
When He wants to do something very wonderful, He starts with something impossible!'

Over and over again in my own life, I can testify to the truth of these words. However, more recently I have found that all these occurrences were dress-rehearsals for a situation I am now facing. Just as David had his dress-rehearsals killing the lion and the bear in order to prepare his heart to face Goliath, so too the Father takes us through training sessions; smaller battles which build our faith and knowledge of His character so that we may not only stand but triumph in the day we face our Goliath.

Then she begins to recount the story of Lazarus, Mary and Martha -- how they had seen the Lord heal, and had a close relationship with Him, yet their eyes scanned the horizon as their brother became more and more ill, and He didn't seem to

o arrive..... Or care.

'Hope deferred makes the heart sick', the Word tells us and as the reality of the situation before their eyes became more and more hopeless, confusion was replaced by anger and somewhere in-between these two raging emotions, faith was desperately trying to keep its head above the stormy waters.

This is exactly where we have been this week (Ami and myself). However, what happened after Lazarus even died, was the greatest miracle of all, resurrection from the dead, and God being glorified. And so we simply need to keep on trusting, no matter how difficult, painful, and confusing..... We have no choice but to trust Him. I have to say that the medical staff are wonderful and compassionate people who have been trying to do their utmost to help Ami and relieve his symptoms.

We have had some major turn arounds and blessings this week as well. Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice has been in Israel with his brother, Scott. (Rabbi Scott). Jay met with David, Caleb Myers and our criminal lawyer Yossi Graiver, and by the grace of almighty God they are planning strategy. Jay met with Avi Dichter, the minister of Internal Security, and told him that this unsolved crime is causing Washington to take notice. He said there are many Senators and Congressmen who are outraged that this has taken place, and are closely watching for justice to be done.

Dichter said that our file is on his desk, and he is involving himself to see that it is solved. Our lawyer said that this case is not going to be easy to be solved, and might turn out to be quite complicated, but progress has to be made. We were very grateful for Jay Sekulow standing up for us and using his considerable influence and connections for the case. Rabbi Scott Sekulow and his wife Judy came to the hospital to meet Ami and he was a real blessing. He ministered powerfully to Ami as he had a near fatal car accident when he was 16, with many similar injuries, and he was able to testify of the healing power of the Lord, and that Ami will return to normal life.

Please pray for these developments, and for Ami's surgery on June 26th.

Ami has 5 siblings who are a blessing to him and who are dedicated to supporting him during this time. My oldest is a daughter, who is married and has a four month old Baby. She comes to the hospital several times a week, and brings home cooked food to Ami, even though she teaches, has a small baby, and her husband comes also even though he works very hard and is exhausted at the end of the day. The next four are boys - and I would ask for prayer for all as we are all coming to terms with this tragedy. There have been varied responses from all, and as far as the faith is concerned as well. If you could keep Chen,(29) her husband Nissim, baby Rani, Aaron (27), Ariel (24) Natan (21), and Elad (19) in your prayers as well, we would appreciate it greatly.

David has been taking on the burden of the investigation and the numerous meetings with lawyers, meetings with other believers and congregational leaders in the land, sharing information, providing evidence to various legal entities, etc. etc. He needs much prayer.

Please pray for strength for myself, Leah, as well as I haven't been feeling too well these days and I am exhausted. I suffer from MS, and the enemy is trying to aggravate the symptoms - whom I rebuke in the mighty name of Yeshua.

Thank you for everything -- heaven will tell the whole story, and we will be able to rejoice together one day!

In the Messiah,

Leah Ortiz

PS: An AP article was just released and is being picked up by major news media - you can view it on

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/06/20/africa/ME-FEA-GEN-Israel-Missionaries.php>

Re:, on: 2008/6/20 20:54

I watched some of it. Thanks for sharing that. Did you say that they were or were not christians? I've never heard of Lisa Bevill, is she a new artist?

Re:, on: 2008/6/20 21:32

Quote:

Rebecca_LF wrote:

I watched some of it. Thanks for sharing that. Did you say that they were or were not christians? I've never heard of Lisa Bevill, is she a new artist?

Yes, the Ortiz's are Christians and Mr. Ortiz is a pastor I believe. I don't know anything about Lisa Bevill.

It really is touching to see pictures of Ami and all that he has gone through. And he has a long road of recovery ahead... I pray the Lord brings healing that speeds up that time.

Re:, on: 2008/6/20 21:56

Quote:

Roniya wrote:

Quote:

Rebecca_LF wrote:

I watched some of it. Thanks for sharing that. Did you say that they were or were not christians? I've never heard of Lisa Bevill, is she a new artist?

Yes, the Ortiz's are Christians and Mr. Ortiz is a pastor I believe. I don't know anything about Lisa Bevill.

It really is touching to see pictures of Ami and all that he has gone through. And he has a long road of recovery ahead...I pray the Lord brings healing that speeds up that time.

O.k., I watched the rest of it. My phone keeps ringing. That's a great testimony.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/6/20 22:04

It looks like God picked a very special boy to carry forth His plan. As I was watching the video, huge raindrops fell from the sky . . .

Re:, on: 2008/6/27 15:11

From Andrew:

Shalom All,

I am writing to you on behalf of David and Leah. My name is Andrew Bastaros, and I've been serving here in Israel with the Ortiz family since the end of May. I'm from The Brooklyn Tabernacle, doing a three-month internship. I'm here to help out the family in whichever way possible. David and Leah wanted me to introduce myself, give you an update, and share with you my perspective. As I am writing this, David and Leah are in the hospital with Ami, who is recovering from his operation.

Ami had the operation on his left arm today (Thursday, June 26). The purpose of the operation was the restoration of the nerves in his left arm. They opened the arm length wise about 12 to 14 inches (30-36 cm). The operation was supposed to take three hours or longer, but after an hour, the surgeon came out to let us know that they are closing his arm up. Originally, they thought that they may need to do a nerve graft in order to reconnect the nerve if it were severed, but they had to wait until they opened his arm to know. Praise the Lord, the nerve was not severed! But she said that part of the nerve was very damaged, and that it will take about a year's time to heal. That's the part that controls his pinky and ring fingers. They did not want to operate on the nerve in order not to cause any scarring in the nerve or further damage. They want it to heal naturally. They disconnected the nerve from the scar tissue that was building up around it. They believe that the scar tissue may have been causing the severe pain he was having. They were also able to remove foreign objects that were lodged in his arm from the blast.

After the operation, Ami was responsive; able to eat and drink. But he is having a lot of pain in his arm where the operation took place. The medical staff is giving him the equivalent of Extra Strength Tylenol, and it seems to bring down the pain.

Ami went into the operation a little nervous, but with high spirits. The last thing he did as they administered the sleeping gas was point and laugh at his dad because he was wearing a hairnet. And as he came through after the operation, he had a smile on his face. We thank the Lord for the peace that He gave him throughout this whole procedure.

Leah's last update was a sobering heart cry for many of those who do not know the daily ordeals the family goes through. She wanted to be honest in sharing the behind the scenes battles and not just the fruits. Although there is milk and honey, there are also giants before them. Leah, with the exception of a few nights since the incident, has been by Ami's bedside day and night. David is always on the phone dealing with the legal matters and the battles the believers are facing while handling the needs of the congregation. Ami's brothers, sister, and brother-in-law put their lives on hold to be next to their brother whom they love very much. Ami is very appreciative of this, the prayers of the believers, and the postcards and letters he receives. But it can still be overwhelming for anyone to go through what this 15-year-old went through. All of a sudden, his basketball dreams and normal life are put on hold indefinitely.

I say all of this to encourage all of you to continue to pray. Your prayers are being answered as this operation testifies, and we praise the Lord for it! To Him be all the glory.

Prayer Points:

Please pray for strength for David and Leah, who as parents have to see their youngest son go through such painful ordeals. All of this while dealing with extraordinary loads in their lives. We trust the Lord for more grace.

Please pray for Ami's siblings that the Lord would deal with the struggles of their hearts, speak to them, and give them direction in life as they need to start new chapters.

Please pray for vision, faith, and hope for Ami's life. He has heard many encourage him by saying, "The Lord will use your life for His glory," but the immediate circumstances are tough to see beyond. He is still looking to regain his normal life back. So pray that the Lord will speak to his heart even at this young age as to how He will use him.

Please pray that Ami's recovery period will be much shorter than what the doctors predict.

Please pray that the Lord will give him the strength to endure the pain he is going through.

Please pray for the future operations that are supposed to take place. He is facing four or five more operations.

Please pray that the Lord will strengthen the body of believers in Israel and give them victory in all their battles.

Finally, there is a Jerusalem Post article that may be of interest to you. A three-day conference is being held in Jerusalem by The Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations from the US. It includes a protest of Israel's discriminatory policies towards Messianic Believers. Follow the link below to check out the article:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1214132688698&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

In Yeshua,
Andrew

Re:, on: 2008/7/15 12:51

From Leah:

Dear Family in Yeshua,

Ami has begun doing "new stuff" as he put it in the "gym" in the hospital, working out with weights. He's very happy.

My oldest son Aaron (27) is staying at the hospital this week, and giving me a much needed break. I've been with Ami 24/7 for 4 months now, with my other kids filling in a few days a week, as it's required for an adult to be with their children all the time.

I've noticed that Ami copes better emotionally when he's at the hospital than he does at home. Physically he is stronger and so is doing better in that way at home, but when he's home he goes out with his friends, walking around town, sitting down and talking with people, and the next day he is very depressed. He says he should be going out with friends, playing basketball, but instead he's going back to the hospital. He's seeing what he's lost, and it's huge. He's looking at his left foot, which looks mangled, and is shorter than the right now because of the first 3 toes which are partially amputated, at the skin grafts, which look appalling, at the many bulging scars, at his fingers that don't work well, at the left arm which hangs almost lifeless - it's daunting for a 15 year old. He has a pressure suit for the burns and all the scars which goes from the top of his neck to the bottom of his foot on the left side, and down to his mid-calf on the right, and now he has to put silicon pieces under the pressure suit to further soften and lighten the scars. He wears a brace on his right hand at night to lengthen the tendons, and a small brace on his left hand during the day to straighten out the clawing effect in his hand -

He doesn't hear well, he still has much shrapnel in his eyes which doctors are hoping won't come out, and he's in constant pain. It's easy for a 15 year old to feel he's lost more than he could ever regain.

When I open the Bible, the Lord is faithful to encourage. Psalm 68:19-21 says:

19 Blessed be the Lord,
 Who daily loads us with benefits,
 The God of our salvation! Selah
20 Our God is the God of salvation;
 And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.
21 But God will wound the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses.

There are many psalms in which King David asks the Lord to crush his enemies, and those who want to kill him. I could never relate to those verses before, but since we experienced attempted murder, I find myself nodding my head in agreement with David!! However, as in the above verses - it is important to see - "the one who still goes on in his trespasses."

It is always possible to repent of wickedness, and that, I believe, is God's heart. King David, in his expressions to the Lord, is nonetheless practicing Romans 12:19: "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Deut. 32:35; Psalm 94:1) He's expressing his anger, frustration, fears to the Lord, but he's putting it into the Lord's hands to avenge. And he always comes out of these expressions with praises, and thanks giving for being delivered from those same enemies. We pray for the ones who did this to repent of their wickedness. Please pray with us in that direction - for their consciences to bother them, that they would turn themselves over to the authorities, and into the hands of the only One Who can forgive them and give them new hearts and renewed spirits.

Slowly, bits of information are coming forth which will hopefully further the investigation. Concerning the investigation, I can't give much detail, but your prayer is essential on this front as well. Please keep David in your prayers as he is doing a tremendous job, keeping communication flowing between other congregations, lawyers, and the law-enforcement agencies.

A Russian believer came to our fellowship one Shabbat, who is part of a fellowship that we have close ties with. She told us that she does therapeutic massage and that she felt very strongly from the Lord to try to help Ami. In Russia, they use massage for pain more than pain medication. We had one session on Friday after Ami got out for the weekend, and he was transported into the heavenlies, it relaxed him so much. She was able to work extensively with the left arm as she is a physical therapist as well. Zoya says she will not take any money from us, her payment will be when the pain is relieved.

ieved. She has vast experience and has helped many people with chronic pain, but she said she's praying for the Lord to show her how to help Ami.

Another prayer point - When Ami was still in the first hospital, the principle and guidance counselor, along with his homeroom teacher, who have been very supportive from the very first, came to visit, and arranged his transfer to high school in Ariel. The education system here is very different than in Europe or North America, as our matriculation exams are extremely difficult, and begin in the 10th grade. Ami will be studying in a course of study which learns only the subjects for these matriculation exams, which will help him as he has so many other issues to face (more operations, inability to hear well and to write, etc.) As we were putting on his pressure bandages, he said, "How will I ever be able to go to school in these?" (They're hot). Please pray for this next big step - School starts here on September 1st.

We love you all - thank you being part of the fulfillment of the above verse- Blessed be the Lord who daily loads us with benefits -- another version says, who daily bears our burdens. Yes, the Lord has loaded us with blessings and the benefit of the strength and daily grace poured out on us as a result of your prayers. You are carrying this heavy load with us, and we are grateful.

In Yeshua,

Leah

Postcards can be sent to:

Ami Ortiz
P.O. Box 1903
Ariel 40700
Israel

Re: Progress on awareness of violence - posted by JoanM, on: 2008/8/8 3:05

The bomb that injured Ami, disguised as a Purim gift that is given by custom, was an act of terror. This thread documents the difficulty in police investigation progress. The following is a "related" story.

The second story on today's (08/07/08) Daily Newscast on Israel National News is a specific reaction to charges filed against Yad Leachim, the alleged terrorists that have attacked Christian missionaries. Yad Leachim is responding to the charges filed against them by the US State Department. Yad Leachim is a counter missionary organization in Israel. Spokes-person of this organization says:

#1 that (paraphrase) because Christian missionaries have little to show for the massive money from American Christian supporters that has been given this to do this work, they now accuse us of terrorism (bombing, other aggressions). They are violent toward us. And

#2 that (paraphrase) They are a big problem. They have 80 congregations in Israel.

Yad Leachim wants a law prohibiting all missionary activities in Israel. This is what exists in Muslim countries.

Link to Newscast:

(<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/TV/>) IsraelNationalNews.com

Under "Features" select "Countering Christian Missionaries in Israel"

Re: , on: 2009/7/16 12:52

JoanM shares a praise update on Ami on this thread:

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=29724&forum=44&1

Praise God for His healing power in this young man's life!

Re: Ortiz attacker arrested - posted by JoanM, on: 2009/11/11 23:58

I happened upon this French news report, dated 11/01/09, today: (<http://www.france24.com/en/node/4915076>) Israeli settler arrested“Israeli police have arrested a Jewish settler suspected of having murdered two Palestinians and carrying out hate attacks against missionaries and gays, police said on Sunday.....”

It appears that Leah Ortiz is satisfied that the man who bombed the family home to stop the witness of the gospel to Jews in Israel has been found. Persecution of Jewish Christians by individuals and Jewish sects, higher governmental disregard of this, and the personal harm to Ami, her son, seem to have been addressed in this particular case.

The coverage/access to Israel National News has changed in the last 18 months. Only select news video reports are available through a related site (Wejew.com). I personally miss the more open news source and wonder at how this was decided/accomplished.

Here are links to two past “uncensored” reports from INN on the (<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Search.aspx?cxpartner-pub-5569699846303362%3Ackiu06-ros1&cofFORID%3A11&qOrtiz&x6&y4#494>) “messianic problem”

#1. Mar 31, 2008 ... Caleb Meyers, legal council for the Messianic community and the Ortiz family, is milking this for all it's worth. ...

#2. Jun 26, 2008 ... The boy's father, Pastor David Ortiz, had been warned repeatedly by Palestinian Authority religious authorities to stop trying to convert ...

Body of Christ information: Jay Sekulow (<http://www.aclj.org/News/Read.aspx?ID3006>) (ACLJ International Affiliate) was quietly of legal assistance, in Israel, to the families attorney. They have an office in Israel now.